Students to undergo random drug tests, says Lina

Story on PAGE A2

'Dodong' intensifies, lashes at Batanes

TROPICAL storm "Dodong" (international name Nangka) gained strength and bore down on extreme northern Luzon on Monday with peak sustained winds of 105 km per hour, the weather bureau said.

Public Storm Signal No. 3 has been raised over the Batanes Group of Islands, Babuyan and Calayan Islands.

'DODONG'/A15

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Pangasinan officials urge flooding probe
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- DOH says 2 of 3 cases not SARS
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Tuesday, June 3, 2003 ★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 175 P15
website: www.inq7.net

S. Korea donates fighter jets to RP

Congress OKs bill banning smoking in public places

By Michael Lim Ubac

ANTI-SMOKING advocates scored a major victory yesterday after a bill aimed at regulating the use, sale and advertisement of cigarettes and other tobacco products was approved by the bicameral conference committee.

The measure seeks to "absolutely" ban smoking in public places, such as schools, offices, conference rooms, educational centers, hospitals, clinics, restaurants, hotels, ships, trains and other passenger vehicles, gas stations and laboratories.

"The only exception is if they are going to put a separate (enclosed) room for smoking," Sen. Juan Flavier, a former health secretary, said.

The bill prohibits and penalizes tobacco smoking among minors, or teenagers below 18 years old. Both the minor and the cigarette vendor or distributor are criminally liable.

Upon effectivity of the proposed act, tobacco companies are mandated to reserve 30 percent of the front of every tobacco product package for a health warning.

The health warning, to be printed in either English or Filipino on a rotating basis or separately and simultaneously, says: "Government Warning: Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to Your Health," "Cigarettes are Addictive," "Tobacco Smoke Can Harm Your Children" or "Smoking Kills."

Penalties range from fines (P1,000 to P100,000) to imprisonment and even cancellation of business licenses.

Flavier attended the bicameral conference committee meeting yesterday afternoon along with Senators Francis Pangilinan and Luisa "Loi" Ejercito. All

CONGRESS/A14

PRESIDENT Macapagal is welcomed by Philippine Embassy officials upon her arrival at the Seoul Military Airport. She will meet today with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

AP

Antiterror campaign gets boost

By Carlito Pablo

SEOUL (via PLDT)—South Korea will donate second-hand American F-5 fighter jets and patrol boats to the Philippines for its campaign against terrorism.

The fighter planes, whose delivery and number have yet to be finalized, will help boost the Philippine Air Force, which is considered the weakest in the region. The PAF has 14 fighter jets, of which only five are flying.

Besides the planes and patrol boats, the Philippines will receive military items like spare parts, Kevlar helmets and special 20-mm ammunition, according to Silvestre Afable, head of the Presidential Management Staff.

The hardware will "strengthen the antiterrorist and antipiracy efforts" of Manila, according to a briefing paper on the talking points between President Macapagal-Arroyo and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun. The two leaders will meet today.

Ms Macapagal took off for Seoul from the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on board a 16-seat Falcon jet at 12:12 p.m. yesterday.

The Macapagal administration is fighting two groups of Moro rebels: the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group linked by the United States to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Ms Macapagal has made her antiterrorist campaign the defining thrust of her administration by aligning the country with the United States, also a military ally of South Korea.

Last month, in her state visit to the United States, Ms Macapagal obtained about

S. KOREA/ A14

Maguindanao skirmish mars 1st day of ceasefire

By Charlie C. Señase, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—One down, nine to go.

The MILF's 10-day ceasefire started yesterday, and the highest ranking general in Mindanao and a top rebel leader both confirmed it was quiet on all fronts.

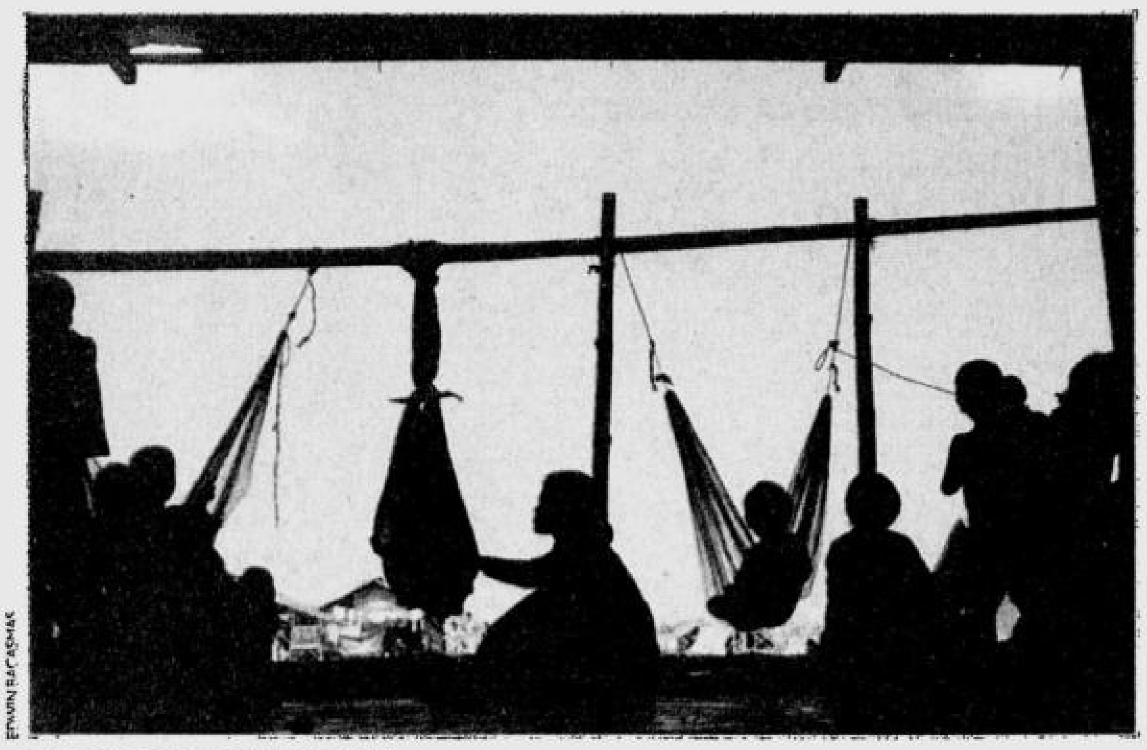
Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik, whose government has been brokering peace talks, welcomed the start of the ceasefire and said he hoped it would lead to a resumption of the talks, which stalled last month. "It should not only be for 10 days that fighting should stop. It should be forever," Taufik said.

"We are enjoying a quiet day and we are aiming [for] a zero-incidence [level] effective today until the 12th of June," Ghazali Jaafar, Moro Islamic Liberation Front vice chair for political affairs, said yesterday.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko also said the guns on both sides were silent.

"We did not come up with any skirmishes with the MILF. I hope they will re-

MAGUINDANAO/ A14



EDWIN BACASMAS

LITTLE SHUT-EYE IN PIKIT

The dark days could be far from over for families displaced by fighting between government troops and Moro rebels in Pikit, North Cotabato. The women comfort their sleeping children in the town's evacuation center.

Basilan governor's role in Lamitan disturbing

By John Nery

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

EDITORS' NOTE. Gracia Burnham's disclosures and the second anniversary of the "siege of Lamitan" may prompt calls for a new inquiry into the hospital fiasco. But a review of already available information clearly shows evidence of either rank incompetence or complicity by officials--both military and local government. To date, however, not a single official has been punished.

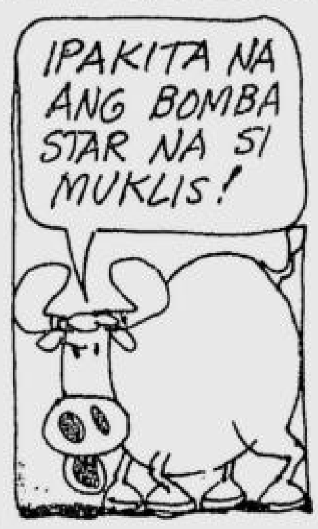
IN January, after the Lamitan District Hospital in Basilan was refurbished by US troops taking part in Balikatan exercises, the provincial governor praised the Americans.

"These projects restored the confidence of the people in the government," Gov. Wahab Akbar said.

Judging from House committee report No. 928, however, Akbar himself suffers from a confidence problem. Congressmen who investigated the June 2, 2001 siege of the other Lamitan hospital—the single-story Jose Ma. Torres Hospital near St. Peter's Church—said they were "disturbed by testimonial evidence pointing to the involvement of Gov. Wahab Akbar with the ASG."

Akbar, a former leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group, was even spotted inside the Torres hospital "meeting with ASG leaders at the

BASILAN/ A9



IPAKITA NA ANG BOMBA STAR NA SI MUKLIS!

Present Muklis, PNP urged

By Christian Esguerra

THREE years ago, Muslims howled in protest when police raided a Muslim community in Metro Manila, rounded up 26 residents and presented them to the media as suspects in a mall bombing.

Now, a Muslim leader is raising a hue and cry over the Philippine National Police's refusal to show to the media its latest suspected

PRESENT/ A15

Erap allies file impeach rap against SC justices

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

A BOOK written by Supreme Court Justice Artemio Panganiban has become the basis for an impeachment complaint that Joseph Estrada filed against him, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., and six other justices whom the former president blamed for conspiring to bring about his downfall in 2001.

Rene Saguisag, lawyer for Estrada, submitted the impeachment complaint to the office of House of Representatives Secretary General Roberto Nazareno yesterday, three days before Congress adjourns.

The complaint charged Davide, Panganiban, Justices Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona with violating the Constitution, betrayal of the public trust and committing high crimes stemming from their decision to allow then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to take the presidency from Estrada in January 2001.

Estrada was deposed in 2001 over a massive corruption scandal. He was later arrested and faces the death penalty if convicted on charges of plundering $80 million during his 30-month rule.

Saguisag said Panganiban's book, titled "Reforming the Judiciary," provided Estrada with the evidence that the former president was removed from office by

ERAP/ A15

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will have stormy weather and the coastal waters along these areas will be rough to very rough. The rest of Western Luzon will experience monsoon rains while Western Visayas and the rest of Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rains.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/03/03

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Students to be tested for drugs

By TJ Burgonio

TO SHOW it is serious about stamping out the drug menace, the government will require students to undergo drug tests.

Local Government Secretary Joey Lina said yesterday high school and college students around the country would be subjected to random drug tests, as mandated by Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, which was passed in July last year.

The law, Lina said, also requires mandatory drug testing for soldiers, policemen and other law enforcement operatives, and random drug testing for officials and employees of government agencies as well as private companies.

"Even students of secondary and tertiary schools shall . . . undergo random drug testing," said Lina at a press briefing. He stressed, however, that the students' parents would be notified and the rules laid down in the school handbook before the tests would be conducted.

"We believe we can fast-track the realization of a drug-free Philippines by making one undergo drug testing," he said.

New rules

The Dangerous Drugs Board, which the secretary chairs, will begin formulating the rules for the conduct of drug testing in the workplace, schools and other areas this month, Lina said.

"Within one month of the DDB issuing the rules for drug testing, we expect the schools, both public and private, to formulate their own rules," he said.

Lina said it would be up to the school authorities, however, to determine the sanctions to be imposed on students who test positive for illegal substances.

He said he would recommend that a portion of the P1-billion anti-drug campaign fund ordered released by President Macapagal-Arroyo be used to finance the drug testing of students, both from public and private high schools and colleges.

Unlike the schools, however, government offices and private companies will have to shoulder the cost of testing their own personnel, Lina said.

He said officials and employees of government offices and private companies who refuse to undergo drug testing face a harsh penalty.

"Violation of this provision merits the employee or officer, whether public or private, a penalty of six to 12 years in prison and a fine of P10,000. Refusal to be tested is a violation of the law," he said.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, chief of the police anti-drug task force, had warned government officials they face criminal and administrative charges should any of their personnel be found using or dealing illegal drugs.

Candidates for public office and prison inmates are also mandated to undergo random drug testing, according to Lina.

No exemptions

Also on the schools front, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus said high school students will have to undergo the Citizen's Army Training (CAT) course, despite objections by student groups that the subject had become obsolete and a waste of time.

De Jesus said any move to scrap the CAT should be done in coordination with the Department of National Defense, which oversees the citizens' militia training program.

"So far, there has been no debate on the abolition of the CAT," De Jesus said in an interview over RPN-9 television.

The secretary noted there has been "no loud uproar" to scrap the CAT, unlike the college-level Reserve Officers Training Corps, which became an optional course last year after an ROTC officer was killed as he was about to blow the whistle on irregularities in the corps.

The ROTC was replaced with the National Service Training Program after the murder two years ago of Mark Chua, an ROTC cadet officer from the University of Santo Tomas.

The NTSP has three components: ROTC, civic welfare training and literacy training, any of which a college student could take. *With Jerome Aning*

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Tuition protest mars CHEd exec's first day

PROTESTING students yesterday greeted former De La Salle University president Bro. Rolando Dizon FSC on his first day as the new chair of the Commission on Higher Education.

About 100 members of the League of Filipino Students-Youth Party, the National Union of Students of the Philippines and the Student Christian Movement of the Philippines picketed the CHEd office in Pasig City at around noon to denounce Dizon's appointment.

"Students don't expect a bright future under Dizon. As ex-president of a private school, it's natural that he would be of the view that education is a business venture," the LFS said in a statement.

The students carried large school registration cards stamped "Paid under Protest!" to symbolize their opposition to tuition hikes in various colleges and universities all over the country.

The LFS showed data on tuition hikes, which they said had come from CHEd statistics in the 12 regions of the country. Out of 1,280 higher education institutions, 252 or 20 percent were granted tuition increases this year.

The highest tuition hike was recorded by the Divine Word School of Technology in Tagaytay City which increased its rates from P200 per unit to P600 per unit, or by 200 percent. Region IV saw the highest number of tertiary schools with approved tuition hikes: 33 out of 74.

Nationwide, tuition increases averaged 12 percent, according to the LFS data.

The militant students said the CHEd erred in approving the tuition hikes because in many instances, consultations and negotiations between school administrations and the students resulted in deadlock.

LFS vice president and NUSP president Raymond Palatino said the students would be launching a series of protests denouncing tuition hikes to climax during the school opening on June 9. *Jerome Aning*

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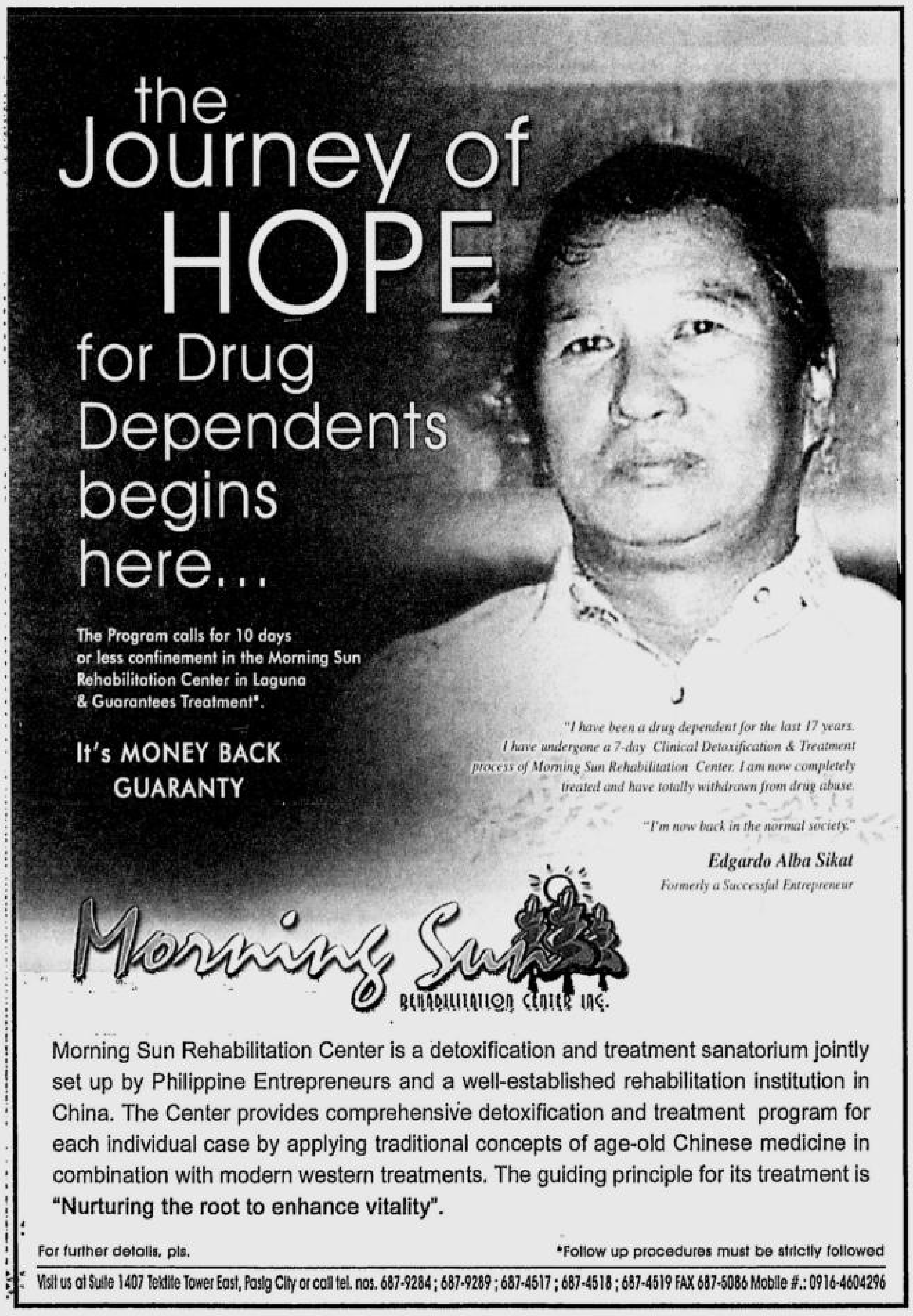
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RP, US ink pact on non-surrender of nationals

FOREIGN Secretary Blas F. Ople confirmed yesterday that the Philippines has concluded an agreement with the United States that would give US citizens here immunity from prosecution in the International Criminal Court.

Ople said in a statement the executive agreement was concluded in an exchange of diplomatic notes between himself and US Secretary of State Colin Powell on May 13, shortly before the departure of President Macapagal-Arroyo on her state visit to Washington.

The statement said the agreement would keep both countries from surrendering each other's nationals to the jurisdiction of an international tribunal, especially if the Philippines were to sign and ratify the ICC Statute.

Ople said the Philippines and the US agreed not to surrender each other's citizens to third parties without the consent of the other, "if the purpose of the surrender is to subject that national to the jurisdiction of an international court."

Ople, who made the announcement before leaving with the President for a state visit to Seoul yesterday, said the decision was carefully studied at the working group and Cabinet levels and would not interfere with the country's international treaty obligations.

"Its legality was also passed upon by the Department of Justice. Before confirming this decision, I also consulted with the leaders of Congress," Ople said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo claimed the agreement will be used by the US to help its troops in the Philippines evade liability before an international tribunal for such violations as human rights abuses.

Others have suggested the agreement was a requirement for the Philippines to qualify for inclusion in the multi-billion-dollar US Millenium Fund to combat terrorism. *Norman Bordadora, AFP and AP*

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2 of 3 cases not SARS, says DOH

By Armand N. Nocum

TWO of the country's three suspected SARS cases are free of the virus.

This was reported by the Department of Health, which said it was still conducting tests on the blood sample of the third case, that of a 30-year-old Filipina who is confined at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center. *(See related story on Page A13.)*

In a telephone interview, Dr. Maria Consortia Lim-Quizon, head of the National Epidemiology Center, said a five-man expert panel from the DOH found that the suspected cases under quarantine at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and the San Lazaro Hospital were not SARS.

"Our SARS experts convened this morning and found the two were non-SARS cases," Quizon told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

She said the RITM patient, an OFW from Taiwan who was from Region I, was suffering from a "cardiac condition."

The San Lazaro patient, an OFW from Hong Kong, had brain cancer, she said. The two were rushed to the hospitals last week after they came down with fever. They have not had fever for several days now, Quizon said.

Taiwan, meanwhile, has agreed to take care of the hospitalization expenses of Filipino workers who get sick with SARS in its territory.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday Taiwan agreed to the demand of the Department of Labor and Employment to prevent a ban on the deployment of OFWs to the island-nation.

Aside from shouldering their hospitalization, the Taiwan government will give OFWs, who fall ill with SARS, NT$500 as daily compensation.

Sto. Tomas said the Taiwan government will give the survivors of a Filipino SARS fatality NT$100,000 on top of the usual insurance benefits.

One New Taiwan dollar is equivalent to P1.54

"They will make provisions," including for face masks and vitamins," Sto. Tomas said in a phone interview yesterday after receiving a communication from the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office. *With Blanche S. Rivera*

Solons oppose death penalty

OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday led 15 other senators in pushing for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law, saying it does not deter crimes and even violates the constitutional mandate against cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

In his sponsorship speech of Senate Bill 2060, which seeks to repeal the eight-year-old law, Pimentel said people who commit heinous crimes should be sentenced to reclusion perpetua (life imprisonment) without parole or time out for good behavior.

"The Death Penalty Law ought to be repealed because it cannot reform the criminal, it does not qualify as a civilized way of achieving retributive justice, and it is not a deterrent to crime," Pimentel said.

After two years of deliberation and study, the Senate committee on justice and human rights chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan has referred the repeal of the law for plenary deliberation.

Pimentel argued that reforming criminals cannot be achieved by executing them but by imposing penalties other than death, like imprisoning the offender for a period of time.

"For obvious reasons, a convict executed defeats the purpose of reformation or rehabilitation because a dead man clearly can no longer be reformed or rehabilitated," he said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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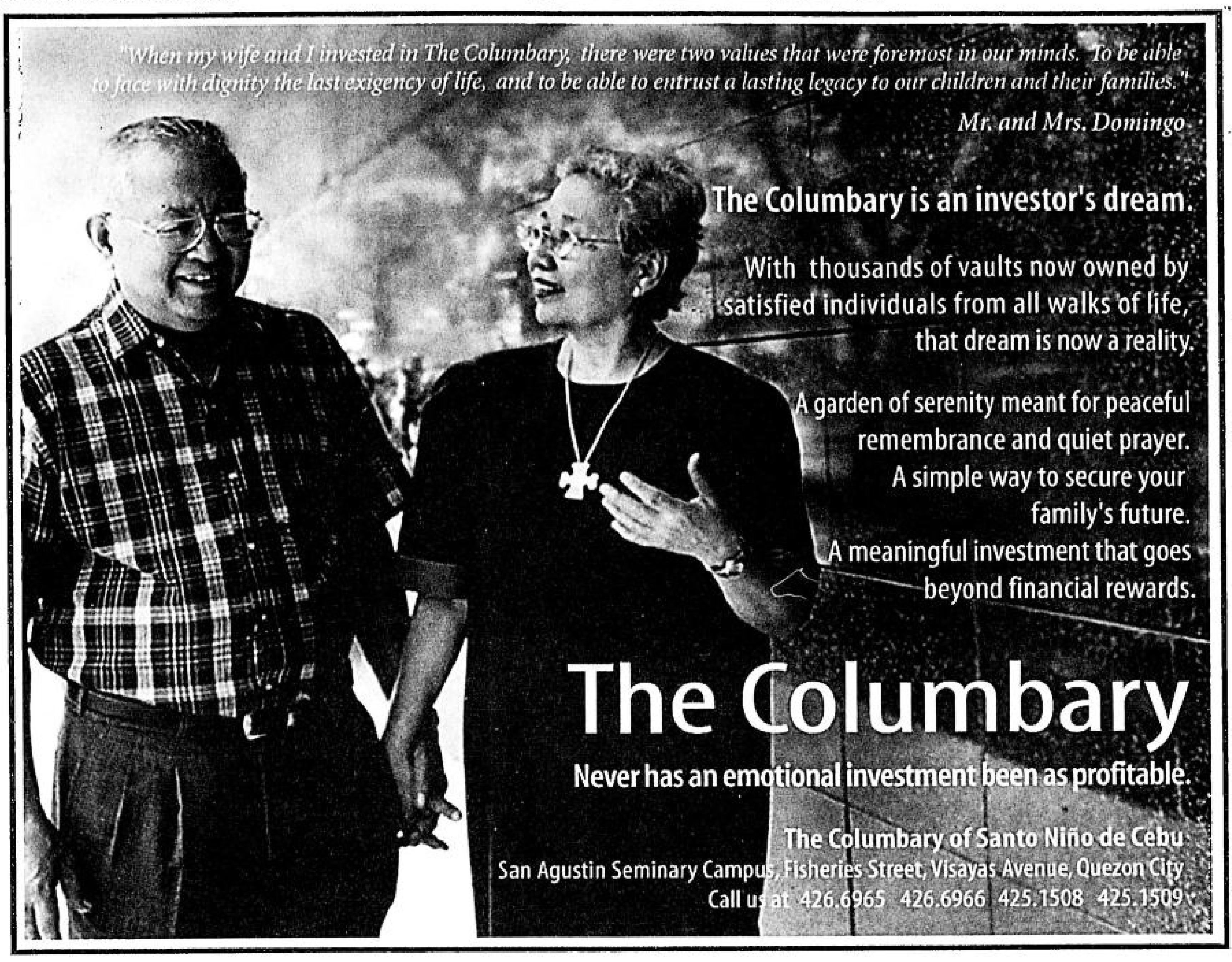
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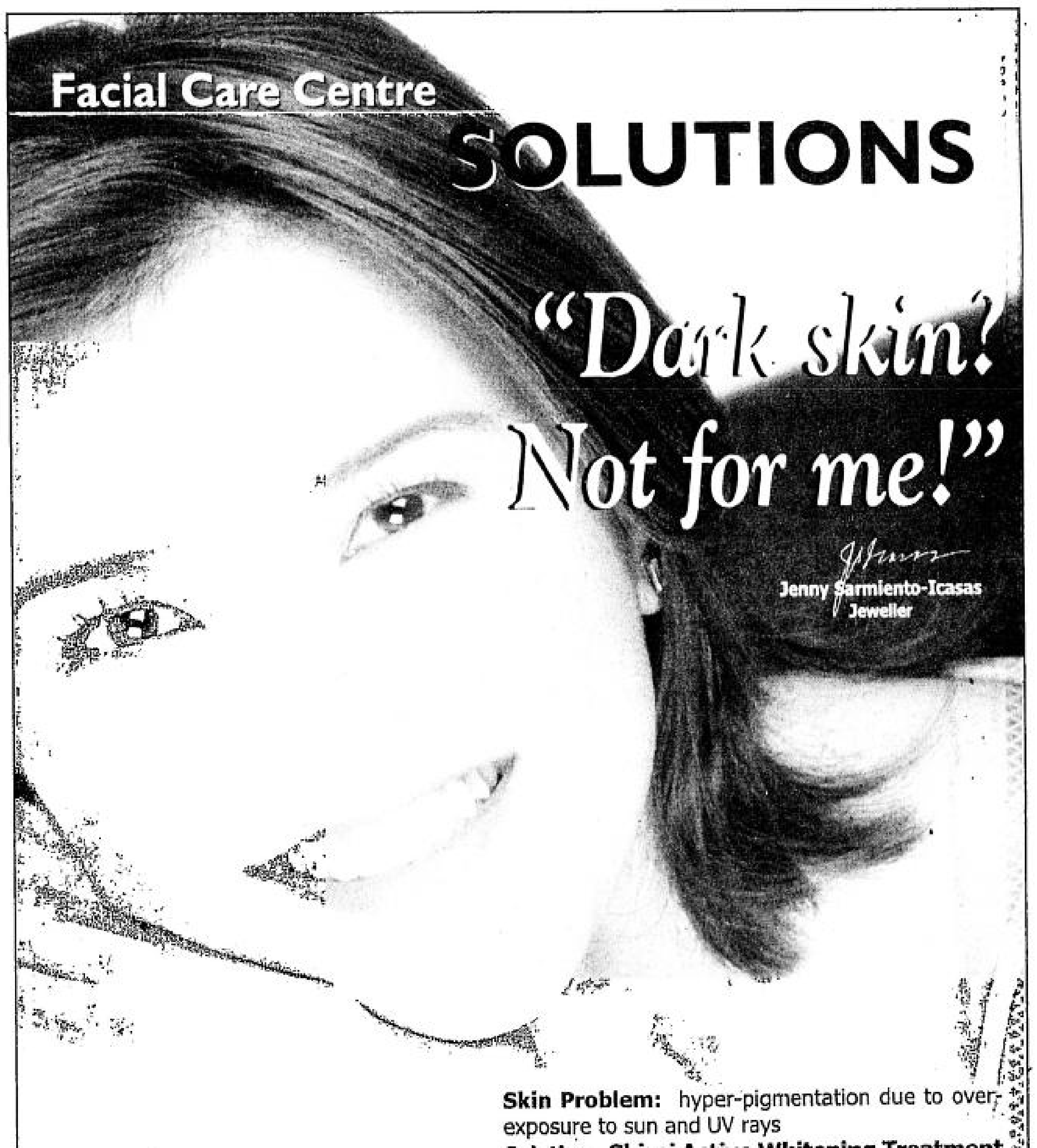
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MON.- FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

Captain not in command of San Nicolas when ships collided

By Luige del Puerto

UNDER intense cross-examination, the captain of the MV San Nicolas admitted yesterday that he failed to take command of the vessel even when a collision was imminent—a fact that members of the Board of Marine Inquiry took very seriously.

The ship's chief mate was the one on duty when the MV San Nicolas collided with the much larger Super Ferry 12 and sank at the mouth of Manila Bay on May 25.

Capt. Celso Ibañez, who has been captain of the San Nicolas since 1998, said he did not see any need to relieve chief mate Ernesto Fampula. He said he trusted Fampula who had been working with him at least four years.

"I concurred with his judgment. I confirmed his commands, I would have done exactly as he did at that time," he told the board.

But the board members said the San Nicolas captain should have taken command when he sensed danger.

Rear Adm. Domingo Estera reminded Ibañez of the duties of a captain, chief of these being to ensure the safety of the vessel and its passengers.

"He should have assumed command. It was incumbent upon him to assume control of his vessel," said Capt. Gregorio Sialsa, one of the board members, in an interview.

Ibañez's blood pressure rose to 210 over 110 during the proceedings and he was given 15 minutes to rest.

In his testimony, Ibañez said he had been asleep before going to the bridge at 11 a.m., as he had spent the previous night steering the vessel through strong winds and high waves.

In his marine protest, Ibañez had noted the time of collision as 11:35 a.m.

Ibanez reiterated what he had earlier told reporters—that the Super Ferry 12 did not respond to their calls over VHF radio.

He also recalled how the San Nicolas maneuvered to the right, then to the left, and finally to the right again, trying to avoid the bigger vessel.

He drew a sketch of both vessels at two miles apart, based on what he had seen on radar. His sketch matched that made by the steersman of the Super Ferry 12 at one mile away. Both sketches showed the vessels were meeting head-on.

Meanwhile, a marine protest filed by the captain of another vessel yesterday indicated that the Super Ferry 12 had figured in another near-collision just two days after its accident with the San Nicolas.

The INQUIRER was able to obtain a copy of the marine protest of Capt. Tomas N. Nebreja, captain of the MV San Sebastian, a cargo vessel.

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Yet, in the hands of unscrupulous businessmen, this technology has been used to produce unauthorized copies of such products in numbers and at such speeds and frequencies enough to devour the very industries that feed them.

As a result, the motion picture and music recording industries have been brought to near, if not actual; collapse. Book publishers, software developers and programmers and other copyright proprietors are also being victimized.

Taking a united stand against optical media piracy, we, members and friends of the motion picture industries, theatrical, television and video, music industries, book publishing and software development industries, declare that:

THE IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE OPTICAL MEDIA LAW IS A MATTER OF GENUINE NATIONAL INTEREST.

Passing the Optical Media Law will mean;

Speeding up the growth of the fledgling Philippine IT industries.

The developing IT industries, with export earnings of P29.035 billion in 2000, and contribution to the Government of P2.275 billion in tax revenues for 2002, can only flourish under a regime of effective IP protection. International demand for software and IT services shy away from countries with weak or no protection for intellectual property rights.

Saving the movie and music industries from certain collapse.

Because of piracy, seventy (70%) per cent of Filipino movies produced will lose money while most music albums will hardly break even. That is why, productions of Filipino movies and music albums featuring Filipino talent and material have steadily declined over the years. This means growing unemployment, diminishing tax revenues for the government. Worse, huge opportunities in the international market are squandered due to little or no effort to scout for or discover true and world-class talents.

More thriving businesses relying on copyright protection; more jobs for the people and more taxes for the government.

A regime of effective protection of intellectual property rights ensures a level playing field for every business player. There will be more encouragement for more intellectual creations, more inventions, discoveries and scientific discussions, more literature, art and music.

More businesses mean more jobs.

Bankrupt businesses pay no taxes. Pirate businesses pay no taxes.

For years, government has been losing money to pirates.

Year	Software Piracy	Music Piracy	Video Piracy
1998	P200 million	P33.5 million	P265.000 million
1999	P250 million	P72.0 million	P298.000 million
2000	P350 million	P190.000 million	P437.000 million

If we stop piracy, there will be more money for textbooks and classrooms for school children; more money for hospital beds and medicines for the sick; more money for housing and for food security.

The Philippines, recognized as a respectable business partner in the international community, will benefit from foreign technology and investments.

IP protection is the foundation upon which an attractive investment climate is built. It facilitates authorized transfers of technology. It encourages foreign creative industries, from entertainment to high technology, to make direct investments in the local economy. IP protection will also allow us to benefit, and innovate, from foreign technologies. More vital to our longer-term growth and development, legitimate transfers of technology will enrich our indigenous science and technology.

We also stress that the problem must be addressed now. Even as we speak, the industries are suffering.

We implore the Honorable Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Mass Media and Public Information, and the Honorable Senators to help the suffering industries victimized by copyright piracy by enacting immediately an effective Optical Media Law.

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Advt.

Mulcting cops get new nemesis

INTERIOR Secretary Joey Lina has tapped retired Gen. Edgardo Abenina to head a special unit that would go after "kotong" cops.

Abenina, chief of the Land Transportation Office until he was forced to resign on Dec. 20, 2001 after being linked to a supposed destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration, will head the special team as an assistant secretary in the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"The job is tough but it's achievable," Abenina told the INQUIRER yesterday. "I have to carefully choose my men to ensure that they're not *kotong* cops, too."

Abenina was quietly appointed to the DILG on March 1, 2002. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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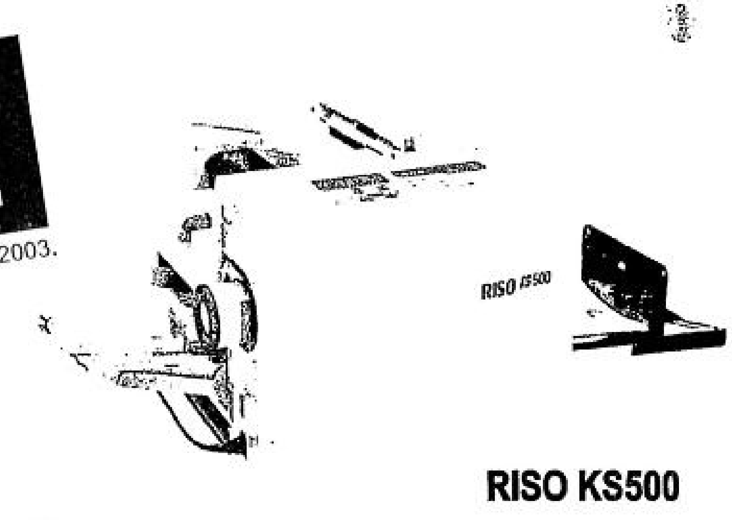

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Safety at sea

EDITORIAL

THE RECENT collision between a Super Ferry and a smaller ship which killed at least 38 people has once again put the spotlight on the Philippine Coast Guard. One "usual" irregularity—unmanifested passengers—was again discovered. At least 12 people were not listed on the manifest of the MV San Nicolas and 16 people whose names appeared on the tickets sold did not actually board the ship.

Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, Coast Guard chief, immediately relieved Romeo Magallado, station commander of Coron, Palawan, from which the ill-fated MV San Nicolas had sailed for Manila. The relief was ordered even before the investigation of the collision could start.

Fine, but is it going to be always like this: that top officers will act only after people have died? Something has to be done to make the officers in the Coast Guard stations all over the country shape up and do their work to prevent the overloading of ships and the boarding of ships by people whose names are not on the manifest.

The recent collision also showed that the Coast Guard can perform its work better if it has modern ships and equipment. A case in point is the good work done by the Coast Guard men aboard the BRP Ilocos Norte. A day before it was commissioned, the BRP Ilocos Norte, a state-of-the-art search-and-rescue vessel, helped save 70 passengers of the MV San Nicolas.

The good news is that five more rescue ships, worth about $75 million, are expected to be delivered this year. All these ships have high-tech apparatus for the rapid recovery of survivors and the coordination of rescue operations. And these ships, which have a top speed of 24 knots (24 nautical miles per hour) can reach the site of sea disasters quickly.

The bad news is that radar equipment worth P1.2 billion that could have prevented collisions are now rotting in 16 stations throughout the country. Some of the equipment were used briefly but the others were not used at all because of technical problems arising from the contract. It seems now that these equipment for the Global Marine Disaster Signal System have become obsolete and have been superseded by the Automatic Identification System.

Lista said that with AIS the Coast Guard can tell meeting ships what course to take in a matter of seconds. The system is similar to that used by air controllers to prevent the collision of airplanes. We hope the acquisition of the new system will be facilitated.

The recent collision should make the executive and legislative departments do something about the lack of men and vessels of the Coast Guard to carry out its many functions. It has only about 4,003 officers and men to patrol and safeguard the 36,289-kilometer coastline of the archipelago.

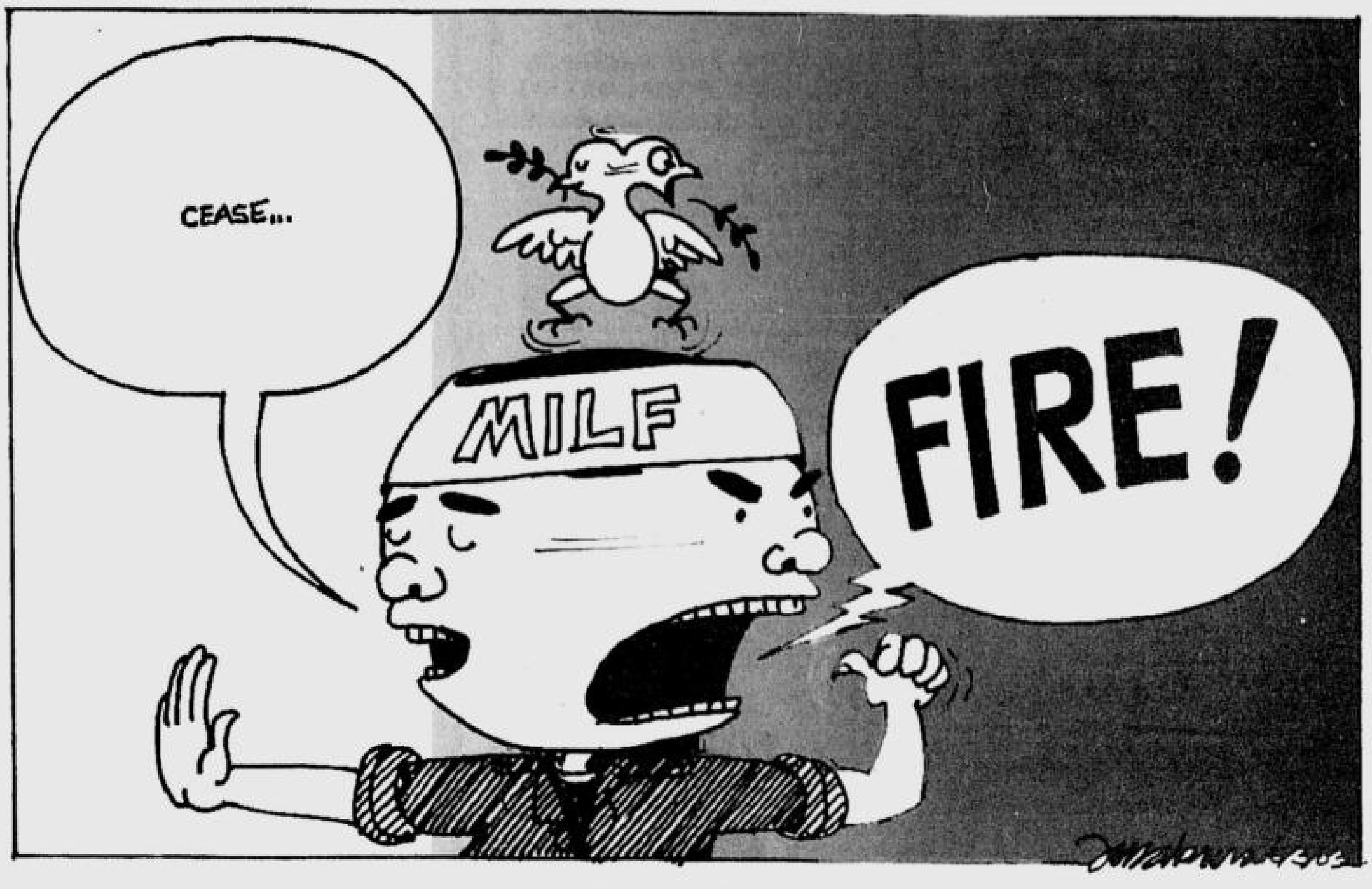
On average, each Coast Guard man has to guard two islands, nine kilometers of coastline and nine square kilometers of coral reefs. Besides, 98 percent of domestic trade depends on sea transport, the country is 11th in terms of fish production in the world and 22 tropical typhoons hit the country every year.

It's a good thing the lack of ships is now being attended to. Thirty-two ships were scheduled to be delivered to the Coast Guard starting December 2002 and one ship every month thereafter until 2005.

The Coast Guard is mandated by law to enforce laws and rules pertinent to maritime shipping, immigration, customs, quarantine, fisheries and other areas of national interest. It enforces laws to promote the safety of life and property within Philippine jurisdiction and in the high seas. It also operates rescue facilities and enforces rules for the maritime environmental protection of the territorial waters of the country.

In reality, one Coast Guard officer said, the service is often reduced only to the counting of heads at sea ports and rescuing people whenever there is a sea disaster. Very often it is the Marines or the Navy, which have more men and ships, that performs the other functions.

This should not be the case. The Philippine Coast Guard has to take a more active role in the enforcement of pertinent laws and regulations while going about its daily patrol of the country's extensive coastline. But it has to be given the men and the equipment that will enable it to perform its task efficiently. In most instances, this is literally a matter of life and death, and so we hope that both the legislative and executive departments will give priority to the Coast Guard's requirements.


CEASE...
MILF
FIRE!

Hypocrisy and falsehood in Congress

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ACCURACY of the legislative journals, which record what happens during sessions, has been put under scrutiny in recent days because of the way House Concurrent Resolution 16 was passed in the House of Representatives. Former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz waxed sarcastic in his column last Saturday, May 31, because of the lack of credibility of the House journal of March 20, 2003, when the resolution was passed. At midnight of that day, according to the journal, 204 out of 219 members of the House were still at the session hall to vote on the resolution. Only 15 members were absent.

Congress rarely meets until the wee hours of the night, wrote Justice Cruz, "but such was the force of (Jose) de Venecia's leadership that an impressive majority of his colleagues responded to his call and forced themselves to be present that midnight, foregoing their usual nocturnal pleasures." If the House journal is to be believed.

Several days earlier, Sen. Joker Arroyo called a letter of House Secretary General Artemio Adasa, quoting the House journal when Resolution 16 was passed, an "unmitigated falsehood." The point of Arroyo was that when a voice vote on the resolution was called, there was no more quorum. But the House journal said otherwise.

The truth is that the leaders of both Houses of Congress—our leaders whom we voted into office—have been playing fast and loose with the congressional records and fooling the people. As a result, the journals can no longer be trusted.

Unfortunately and dangerously, the highest court of the land, the Supreme Court, still takes them as the gospel truth. And this reflects sadly on the administration of justice.

"Without questioning the House journals short of expressing surprise over the extraordinary attendance of the representatives on that midnight session that resoundingly approved House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 (which calls for converting Congress into a Constituent Assembly to amend the Constitution), I will here reiterate the stand I took when I was a member of the Supreme Court against the conclusiveness of the legislative journals upon the courts of justice, including the highest tribunal," Cruz wrote in his column.

He related an old case of an appellant (US v. Pons, 34 Phil 729) who claimed he had been convicted under law passed beyond the period of a special session as fixed by law. It is the usual practice of Philippine legislatures to stop the hands of the clock in the session hall during the waning hours of the session to make it appear that it was still meeting on the last day when in fact it was already past midnight and it was already another day and the last day of session was over. The appellant offered to prove that this was how the law that convicted him was passed, and therefore not valid.

The Supreme Court rejected the offer, however. The legislative journal said the legislature adjourned on the last day of the special session, the tribunal said. And it chose to believe that.

"And yet," Justice Cruz wrote, "the whole country knew, as reported in the daily newspapers, that the Legislature had met beyond the statutory limit and had stayed the hands of its clock to make it appear in its journals that it duly adjourned on the last day of the 30-day period. Only the Supreme Court pretended ignorance of that undeniably demonstrated fact, and it continued to this day to indulge that fantasy."

Is this justice or injustice? When the magistrates of the highest court of the land choose to close their eyes to the truth and pretend that what is false is true, is that justice?

The Supreme Court habitually evades deciding difficult cases by using "separation of powers" as excuse. But in the case cited, the basic rights of an individual were being violated by a falsehood created by the legislature. In fact, the falsehood is public knowledge. Isn't it the duty of the judiciary to prevent an injustice from being committed?

A timid court cannot render justice that is really just. A court that winks at falsehood will not earn the trust of the citizenry.

No wonder the two other branches of government continue to abuse their powers and privileges at the expense of the people. It is still standard practice in Congress to push back the hands of the clock as it ticks the final minutes of a session. Now that clocks are electronic and powered by electricity and they cannot push any hands back, they just pull the plug. Either way, that is cheating and is illegal. And that is an open secret.

But legislators still continue to practice that in this modern age. Some may call it "tradition." I call it "unlawful." We should stop the practice.

The issue of a quorum is another that is often abused. As the roll is called, a majority of legislators are present. But as the day wears on, many of them leave and even when there is no more quorum, those who are left behind pretend that there is still a majority present. Until somebody formally questions the presence of a quorum, the legislative journals will record that all those who answered the roll call in the beginning are still present even when there are only three persons left in the session hall. How many sins have been committed, how many laws have been illegally passed because of this technicality?

The principle of the thing

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW my favorite do-gooder a couple of days ago. Nandy Pacheco is still fighting windmills, armed only with the lance of his beliefs and the shield of his convictions. He's plugging for a kind of politics that would catapult principle over personality.

He had a gem of a thought though in the course of his ruminations, or perorations. Frankly, he said, he could not understand why people want to change the Constitution to change the political culture of the country. Even now, he said, we could do it. We do not need to change the Constitution to make parties hark to a principle higher than the wishes of the leaders who rule them like fiefdoms. We do not need to change the Constitution to build parties that are governed by common principle—call it platform, political philosophy, or ideology—rather than individual whim.

Nandy has his own ideas on how to go about it. He has put up his own party, Kapatiran, which goes by the principle of the "common good," defined as pro-peace, pro-human rights and anti-corruption, among other things. He himself has no political ambitions insofar as political is defined as personal. He has no plans of running. Insofar as politics is defined as the organization of power to improve social life, however, he still has monumental ambitions there. As indeed he cajoles every citizen to have. They may not be indifferent to how they are governed, he says earnestly. Everyone joining Kapatiran, he vows, will be bound by the things the party stands for. No one may be bigger than the group, no one may be higher than the principle.

I wish him well, however quixotic his quest may seem to the jaded. But I share his view completely that we do not need to change the Constitution to start changing the country's political culture, particularly in the direction of creating real parties. In fact, though I find some merit in the argument for a shift to a parliamentary system, I worry as well that given our current political culture, a parliamentary system could strengthen "the politics of personality," as people rightly call it, rather than weaken it.

The problem basically is that we do not have political parties. That may sound strange given the plethora of political parties that have sprung into being since the Edsa Revolution, which has created a multiparty system compared to the two-party system before martial law. But the strangeness is only superficial.

We do not have political parties in the real sense of the word. We do not have parties that have a clearly articulated set of principles. What our parties have are motherhood statements about justice and progress and peace. (At least Pacheco's group is clear about what it means by peace: gun control, rejecting Bush's and GMA's "war against terror," etc.) We do not have political parties that are guided by a set of beliefs or philosophy or ideology, such as for example, the Labour and Conservative parties of England, the Social Democratic and Christian Democratic parties of Germany, the Socialist and Communist (the parliamentary and not armed-struggle variety) parties of Italy. We do not have parties that bind its members not only to allegiance to the beliefs of the party but to the party itself so that they may not leave it without any adverse effect on their careers.

What we have are loose groups brought together by bonds of friendship, patronage and reciprocity. What we have are hastily formed organizations ruled by individual leaders, who are the strongest contenders for the highest office within the party, if not the president himself or herself, who are bigger than the party. What we have are temporary shelters for politicians, whose residency depends only on how long the leaders remain in power or in a position to seize it.

The last gives politicians free rein to desert their parties when those conditions are not met, and join others or found their own. GMA, I think, has done musical chairs with the various parties. Fidel Ramos founded his own party when he lost the presidential nomination of his party to Ramon Mitra. Erap had an entirely different interpretation of "party": one he indulged in every night till well past midnight.

The parliamentary system will not necessarily change this. In fact, it could do the opposite, which is to fortify it. The parliamentary system prescribes the control of government by the party rather than the individual. You do not vote for the president, you vote for a party, or the candidates of a particular party, and they in turn vote for the prime minister. But if the party is its leader, or indeed as is the case here, if the party is less than its leader, then none of that matters. We'll just get another individual to rule this country as he or she pleases, and one we do not even like in the first place. Jose de Venecia comes to mind.

Worse is that the prime minister will have virtually no opposition after he wins. Since the common practice is for politicians to switch parties after elections and join the victorious one, there won't be much left to form an opposition. Indeed, with our parties having no ideological or philosophical barriers, there will be precious little left to protest government policy. What is likely to happen is that we'll have one humongous government party, which will dictate the legislative agenda in parliament, with Satur Ocampo and few others to offer token resistance.

The placement of the cart and the horse is clear. It is not: turn parliamentary and overturn the "politics of personality." It is: overturn the politics of personality and turn parliamentary. Nandy has a point there: We don't need to change the Constitution to start doing it. We can do it right now.

Great time to be in media

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ALAY sa Kawal Foundation, the oldest NGO dedicated to the welfare of the common soldier, which was founded in August 1986 by this columnist and a group of professionals, distributed checks to parents or widows of 38 soldiers killed in action in Malacañang yesterday morning, in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, just before she flew to Seoul for a working visit. The President and the other guests were quite touched when they saw that the widows who came forward to receive their checks were mostly very young women in their early 20s, some of them mere high school graduates. GMA said this was not surprising, as many of those killed were low-ranking soldiers. And yet these young widows have been left with children to rear by themselves.

* * *

Despite her very tight schedule, GMA lingered among the families of the slain soldiers, asking each and every widow or parent when and where her husband or son had been killed. She learned from them that many of them died in the recent encounters with the MILF, beginning with the assault on Camp Abubakar, which the MILF wanted to recapture from the government, in the Buliok offense and in the attack on Siocon and other areas in Central Mindanao.

* * *

The plight of these young widows should make all of us even more determined to work for peace in Mindanao, but as the President has said, the negotiations should be characterized by sincerity on the part of the MILF, which has declared a 10-day unilateral ceasefire starting yesterday. There are those who remain doubtful of the MILF's sincerity, since some groups belonging to it launched attacks on various military units in Central Mindanao starting the day after the announcement of that ceasefire.

* * *

Before the arrival of the President at the Palace ceremony, I chatted briefly with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, and queried him on the discrepancy between the MILF's announcement of a ceasefire and the attacks on military units. I observed that the MILF's top leaders don't seem to have control over their troops on the ground. Abaya said reports indicated that the various rebel groups appear to have a kind of autonomy of operation, making control very difficult for the top leadership. He also opined that the excuse cited by the MILF spokesperson—that there was a necessary time lag between the announcement and the attacks—doesn't wash in this age of cell phones. Abaya said government forces will continue being vigilant and protecting the communities in Mindanao, even as peace talks are being pushed by various pressure groups.

* * *

Friends have sent in their felicitations on the Hall of Fame award accorded to me and four other colleagues: Star's Teddy Benigno and Max Soliven, INQUIRER's Amando Doronila and GMA-7's Jessica Soho. I wish to thank the Rotary Club of Manila, whose efforts to help raise the standards of Philippine journalism over the years has been most laudable. My first reaction was to smile, for those who are elevated to the Hall of Fame are usually the fashion icons or ancient movie stars like Elizabeth Taylor and Bob Hope.

The Rotary award honors not so much the individual media practitioners, but the profession as a whole, especially the scores of media people who have lost their lives in defense of press freedom over the years. We media practitioners live in constant danger of physical or legal assaults as we go about reporting the news as fearlessly as we can. Not too long ago, a powerful congressman threatened to sue me for libel during a Commission on Appointments sub-committee hearing. His threat was not the news; what was news was that he used a CA hearing to air it. Of course, that's nothing compared to the 19 counts of libel filed against the Daily Tribune's editor in chief, Ninez Cacho Olivares by The Firm.

* * *

I regard the Rotary award as a tribute to the uniqueness of the media's role, especially here in the Philippines. Anywhere in the world the media profession is very powerful, but our "mosquito press" helped drive out a dictator in 1986, and a corrupt administration in 2001. Two media practitioners landed in the Senate and one or two are in the House. If the surveys are to be believed, come 2004, another practitioner could end up in Malacañang and another will be a heartbeat away from the presidency.

* * *

The media's powers are awesome. For this reason, it is good to remind ourselves about a verity that tends to be obscured by this power: that it has to be tempered with an immense sense of responsibility. For the media help shape the thoughts and feelings of the people, their innermost being, which can become sublime or ridiculous, depending on the stimulus. For instance, we like to lament the predilection of the *masa* to elect candidates on the basis of their celebrity but the media are in a large part to blame for this lionizing of the *artista*.

The media's awesome power should bring a frightening responsibility, which calls for self-regulation in a profession that can easily become licentious. Our times call for personal integrity and moral courage from the media, to speak the truth without fear or favor.

* * *

Momentous events are unfolding. For the first time in decades, Israelis and Palestinians appear to be following the same road map to peace. Here at home there's tremendous pressure on government and the MILF to travel the same road too. It's a great time to be in the media. Compared to my distinguished colleagues, I'm a late arrival, having written continuously only for the last 20 years, after Ninoy Aquino's murder. But I feel I'm just warming up. There's a nation to be built, and it needs the help of all Filipinos, the media very much included.

They just want to talk

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR more than two months now, workers at two of the largest (if not the two largest) retail establishments in the country have been on strike.

Union members at Shoemart have struck over the deadlock in negotiations over their CBA, after which management handed down a notice of lock-out. Union officers say they are willing to continue negotiations, and in fact they have come down several times on their wage demand, which currently stands at a P40 increase a year for each regular worker. In response, management has reportedly said that they would negotiate but on condition that all strikers are dismissed.

At Rustan's, workers have mounted pickets in front of the department stores over the issue of recognition of the union. Rechell Carranzo, a union official, says this is the first time after 53 years that Rustan's workers have even attempted to organize themselves. When management refused to negotiate, the workers filed a notice of strike, but strangely, says Carranzo, the labor department went ahead and sanctioned a certification election even when the union leaders had already walked out.

As Carranzo recalls, Rustan's workers were asked to vote on whether they wanted to have a union or not by dropping their ballots in either of two ballot boxes, one marked "yes" and the other "no," as managers stood nearby, observing how each worker voted. Not surprisingly, the vote turned out overwhelmingly for "no" but the union disputes the results, and is pushing for recognition and the start of negotiations mainly over wage issues.

* * *

"OUR situation is no longer just and humane," says Carranzo. "Even after working for Rustan's for 20 years, some employees receive just P290 a day. We have not been able to negotiate for salary increases, and not even all government-mandated raises have been honored." In 2001, she adds, more than 1,000 regular workers, out of nearly 2,000, were retrenched, even if Rustan's then turned around and began hiring contractual workers to fill in the vacancies.

Contractuals are also a thorny issue with the SM union, though the store management disputes claims of contractualization, saying that temporary workers are either "apprentices" or hires of concessionaires. Significantly, almost all sales clerks at SM stores in malls are contractuals, and unionized workers are found only in the older stand-alone stores.

A pleasant surprise for the union leaders at both Shoemart and Rustan's is the sympathy they have been receiving from customers. When someone started taking videos of the strikers outside one SM store, a customer approached the camera-wielder and demanded to know why management was "harassing" the workers. The labor protest at SM has been particularly acrimonious, with the union documenting at least 13 violent dispersals in the two months of the strike.

But not so pleasant for them has been the seeming lack of support from the government, particularly DOLE, which has, in their view, favored management so far. "We are no longer counting on government to help us," says an SM union leader. "Instead, we are just hoping that public opinion will somehow force the owners to sit down and talk to us. We don't want to lose our jobs, we just want them to respect our rights."

* * *

MY APOLOGIES for going missing from this space the past days. I'm writing from Santa Cruz, California, on the first phase of a three-week fellowship. I've joined fellows from six other countries in Asia and Africa, including three others from the Philippines, on the International Family Planning Leadership Program. The program is managed by the International Health Programs of the Public Health Institute, with funding support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

According to the program materials, the program seeks to "identify, support and help sustain leaders who are committed to family planning and reproductive health programs in their countries," with the overall goal of supporting "efforts to make reproductive health choices and services more available and accessible" to men, women and youth in our countries. As I write this, we're preparing to leave Santa Cruz for San Francisco, where we'll be staying for the next 10 days and taking part in sessions led by faculty from the University of California San Francisco and Berkeley.

Before leaving Santa Cruz, I'd just like to mention a few things about this coastal city. Our hotel faces the ocean, just a short stroll from the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk that made Santa Cruz a top tourist attraction in the years before World War II. Our opening ceremonies were held at the Cocoanut Grove, which in its heyday was the scene of many glittering social events. Nearby is an amusement center and park, featuring a wooden roller coaster that is the second oldest (after the famous Coney Island ride) in the US.

The first days of our fellowship have been devoted to computer training, conducted by interns of the Global Information Internship Program (GIIP) based in UCSC. The university stands on over 200 hectares of rolling grounds that feature beach views and buildings tucked in among towering redwoods. Truly a breathtaking setting that, thankfully, has not softened the university's and the students' commitment to liberal politics and multiculturalism. Jackie Agnello, a Fil-American student who guided us around the campus, says the Fil-American student organization is one of the largest and most active in UCSC. Indeed, whenever we were introduced to Jackie's Fil-American friends, they all seemed genuinely thrilled to meet us folks from "home."

Vanity fair

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MY mother would always insist that one shouldn't go out in the daytime without an umbrella, a practice I thought antediluvian. My scorn persisted at least for another two decades until the dermatologist told me that we shouldn't go unprotected from the sun after 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"Don't you notice the farmers?" my Mom would say. "They don't go around in bikinis."

I regret not having asked my Mom more about folk recipes and remedies but at that time I considered them old-fashioned. Surely she didn't believe in swallowing arsenic and using bat's blood to improve the complexion, as they did in the Middle Ages? Nor did she advocate removing a rib to achieve a wasp waist like Victorian ladies. I doubt too that she knew about the practice of using belladona and lead to give one dreamy eyes.

But in the event that you're thinking of going into business or investing in a growth industry, consider that while other industries are announcing losses the global beauty industry—consisting of skin care with $24 billion in sales; make-up, $18 billion; hair-care products, $38 billion; and perfumes, $15 billion—is actually growing at the rate of 7 percent a year. L'Oreal's compounded annual growth has been 14 percent for the past 13 years while Nivea's sales have grown 14 percent a year over the same period. Anti-aging creams are growing in India by an incredible 40 percent. Brazil alone has 90,000 Avon ladies. And more money is spent on beauty products in America than is spent on education.

What we tend to forget when we see ads selling beauty products is the subliminal message. These aren't about lipstick or skin creams. These are all about dreams and hope. The plain Jane believes she'll turn into Halle Berry if she uses Revlon.

Neither is science fiction only in movies like "X-Files" or "The Matrix." Beauty companies are now claiming scientific credentials for their products. Shiseido claims its new Body Creator skin gel has fat-burning pepper and grapefruit oil that will melt 1.1 kg of body fat in a month and you don't even have to exercise or diet. (That one's for me! In case you think there isn't one born every minute, Japanese customers bought a bottle every 3.75 seconds at last year's launch.) Avon has a new cream Cellu-Sculpt that claims to take an inch off your thighs in four weeks and it is expected to sell as much as three times its ordinary body cream in the first six weeks.

It isn't surprising to know that beauty firms spend some 20 to 25 percent on advertising and promotions. Elizabeth Arden's advertising budget will grow 40 percent this year and Avon is planning a hike of 50 percent.

Two potentially lucrative markets are cosmetic surgery (that's another career choice with potential) which has grown by 220 percent since 1997. Old favorites like liposuction, breast and bottom implants (for those who want to look like JLo) and nose jobs are being overtaken by botox injections. You know of course that that's a poison that freezes facial muscles that cause wrinkles. Its use has increased by 2,400 percent since 1997.

Tooth whitening is another of the many services offered.

Just remember that what they're really offering is illusion—of youth, of beauty and ultimately love. If I'm beautiful, I'll be loved, right?

The second big new market is "well-being" treatments that cover beauty, exercise, diet visits to spas, salons and clubs. An emphasis on being trim rather than thin is growing in popularity. But it's still dreams that are being sold.

While a lot of people would consider the matter frivolous, it turns out that being pretty "confers enormous genetic and social advantages. Attractive people are judged to be better in bed, and more intelligent. They also earn more and are more likely to marry" (some even several times).

They have discovered that even babies of three months smile longer at a face that adults describe as attractive. Beauty, it seems, signals health and fertility. Long lustrous hair is a symbol of good health; blusher and red lipstick mimic signs of sexual arousal.

Whatever the culture, light skin is perceived as a testament to youth and beauty because skin darkens after pregnancy and light skin makes it difficult to hide illness. (The nationalist can now relax; it wasn't about looking like Westerners after all).

Now who would have thought that all this had to do with reproduction? To look as though you were in your late teens or early 20s is the ideal because this is the age of the perfect mate to have babies.

An American scientist, Davis Buss, studied the mating preferences of more than 10,000 people across 37 cultures. He found out that a woman's physical attractiveness came at the top or near the top of every man's list, which you must admit is highly unfair, but then whoever said life was fair? What you can't argue with is the fact that men and [illegible] are spending up to $160 billion a year on beauty products whose impact is probably more in the mind than reality.

Does it make for a shallower society or eating disorders? Tell that to men and women buying into hope. What is certain is that good-looking people have great advantages over the ugly. Overweight women apparently earn less and unattractive men earn 15 percent less than the Ben Afflecks of this world.

(Data from the Economist, May 2003.)

A tale of two orators

CARLOS Peña Romulo and Miriam Defensor-Santiago have one thing in common: they are two of the most prodigious English speakers the Philippines has ever produced. Although they did not become president like Ferdinand Marcos, another Demosthenes in Philippine politics, they did manage to mesmerize audiences and win fame and public adulation that can only be described as spectacular.

YOUNG BLOOD

Ryan Josef Calauor

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Romulo and Santiago also share one fate that they cannot be proud of: they have become victims of national amnesia at best, and excoriation at worst. Historians point out that public disenchantment with Romulo started when he opted to continue serving Marcos during the martial law years. Santiago continues to be reviled by a significant number of Filipinos for asking Joseph Estrada to stand as godfather to her two adopted daughters in 1998 and defending him during his impeachment trial.

How did things go wrong for these two talented Filipinos?

It was Pio Andrade Jr. who formally shattered the Romulo myth in 1990 with his book "The Fooling of America: The Untold Story of Carlos P. Romulo." The book basically claims that Romulo was a farce, and that he gulled Filipino and American officials alike during his long, multi-awarded career as a diplomat.

Andrade has made several damaging accusations like: Romulo's grossly inaccurate and highly exaggerated accounts of his wartime exploits in Bataan, which made him a folk hero in America, but which was eventually refuted when the American military released its own version of what transpired there; his subservience to Marcos whom he served as foreign minister for 16 years, and criticizing the dictator only during his dying days in 1985, and as the Marcos regime itself was drawing to a close; and his conspicuous absence during the funeral of Ninoy Aquino; and his silence during the trial of Fabian Ver.

Andrade says Romulo could have known that Ver was using the Foreign Ministry as a base to second-guess Ninoy's moves when he came home, but he never presented himself to the Agrava Commission. If Romulo was a man of justice as he often claimed at the United Nations, Andrade asked, why did he shrink from this momentous responsibility?

I read Andrade's book only recently because in 1990 when it was published, I was still a high school Romulo fan reading something else: "Inside the Palace: The Rise and Fall of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos." The book was written by Romulo's second wife, the American journalist Beth Day who, I understand, wrote it after the Edsa Revolution and published it in 1987. The following year, in the June issue of the Reader's Digest, Day wrote another tribute to her husband, entitled "Unforgettable Carlos P. Romulo," which I read hundreds of times and shared with friends who had also been taught in grade school to emulate Romulo as a paragon of virtue.

(In college and later on as a professional, I would read more glowing stories about Romulo, until I realized something was quite wrong: all the stories were written by Beth Day. Hardly anybody else was writing about Romulo. Well, I did come across his name in the autobiography of Rafael Salas who almost became UN secretary general, if not for Romulo's envious manipulation of the contest. But that's another story.)

It is interesting to note that "Inside" was published three years ahead of "The Fooling," but it already contains a lot of justifications for Romulo's questionable actions mentioned in Andrade's book. One is tempted to say "Inside" was deliberately designed to ward off all accusations against Romulo.

But whether "Inside" was an attempt at a whitewash or not, we cannot be really sure. What we can be sure of is that, like a good wife, Beth Day zeroed in on Romulo's "Voice of America" speeches on Bataan, his critical words against Marcos before he took his last breath, and his visit to Ninoy's wake one evening which she describes as peaceful and well received, but which, according to Andrade, was marked with shouts from the angry crowd of *"Tuta, Tuta!"*

If the Romulos dumped the bad president they had waltzed with for the sake of convenience after Edsa I, Santiago didn't after Edsa 2. Call it an evil choice, but, at least, she made a choice. This is the reason she continues to be reviled while Romulo's memory has merely been consigned to the dustbin. They both served bad presidents, but Santiago opted to stay on the sinking ship.

Santiago undoubtedly received a lot of largesse as Erap's most important ally. But she did chastise Erap on several occasions at the height of their alliance, notably when she called his government a "growing kleptocracy" at a major conference in Davao in 1999. It sure was a challenge, and it would not have been the last one had Erap not been overthrown.

I am convinced the Erap-Miriam alliance was doomed because theirs was merely a partnership of convenience: they happened to have a common enemy in Fidel Ramos. And that was all there was to it. Considering Santiago's unpredictability and impatience, Erap would eventually have gotten on her nerves, despite the numerous favors he gave her. But Edsa II happened, and they had no choice but to cement their alliance against Ramos. That made Santiago the great has-been that she is today.

It would be beneficial for Filipinos aspiring for public office to study the lives of Romulo and Santiago since they provide rich lessons on politics and survival.

What is a gifted and respected figure to do if an unprincipled president asks for his services? Should he accept the offer, close his eyes, and bite the president's hand later if necessary, like Romulo? Or should he accept the offer, criticize him occasionally and go down in flames with him, like Santiago?

The answer is no.

It must have been very hard for Romulo and Santiago, but their answer should have been a resounding no. Wise men exert a better influence on a bad president if they remain in the opposition instead of joining the administration. As oppositionists, they might not succeed in opening the eyes of a blind president, but, at least, they will not make him more pernicious by sheer acquiescence and sycophancy.

Romulo and Santiago serve as reminders that actions, not words, define one's place in history. If only Romulo persisted in pushing the genuine ideals of democracy and justice. If only Miriam stuck to her fight against graft and corruption. Indeed, if only they had been meeker and truer to their avowed principles, we would have two more individuals in the tiny gallery of Filipino greats.

Ryan Joseph Calauor, 27 works at C21 Language Institute in Quezon City.

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Cha-cha resolution has no constitutional infirmity

AS monumental as Sen. Joker Arroyo's bias against constitutional amendments is his error of omission in claiming the House had no quorum when it approved Concurrent Resolution No. 16 last March 19.

The senator quoted portions of House Journal No. 62 to slam the resolution's approval. But he cited only those parts that conformed to his bias and his reckless intention to malign the House and its leadership.

Because his bias restrained him from reading the rest of the Journal—even if this meant sacrificing the truth—we are completing the reading for him.

Arroyo says there was no quorum when the resolution was approved. The fact is that two roll calls were made during the session. The first came shortly after 9 p.m. and the second after the House had approved Resolution No. 16 near midnight.

Page 102 of the Journal reads: "On motion of Rep. Francis Escudero, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business."

The Journal further reads: "The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for a nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made."

The second roll call confirmed the presence of a quorum even after approval of Resolution 16. Page 103 of Journal No. 62 contains this pertinent information. No scholar, especially one with the senator's legendary reputation, could have honestly missed it. But he missed it precisely because he was the chief architect of the commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution and whose members he had the power to appoint being then President Aquino's executive secretary.

What is clear and unmistakable is that there was no constitutional infirmity in the approval of Resolution 16. It was well within the ambit of the Rules of the House. Opposition luminaries and those from the majority coalition who opposed the resolution, stayed on to the final vote.

Thirteen House members took to the floor to register their no votes. Minority Leader Carlos Padilla was joined by few members of the Rainbow Coalition in voting no. What midnight approval is the senator talking about? What two outsized buses can seat all members present during the session?

The senator's campaign to denigrate the House, from where he launched his senatorial bid, is immoral. His selective use of the journal is deplorable and deceitful. He dishonored his august office.

The debate on Charter change must be returned to the fundamental issue. The 1987 Constitution reflects the nation's reactions to the excesses of one-man rule. It needs fine-tuning and improvement—and this is universally accepted by the country's constitutional scholars and experts. The Charter must be examined because our circumstances as a people have changed; it must suit the national purpose in the age of globalization and economic interdependence.

Arroyo can enrich the debate by confronting the question of whether or not the Charter, written in the afterglow of a People Power revolt almost two decades old, needs serious revision as we have argued. Political mudslinging only underscores the need for a unicameral system.

—ARTEMIO A. ADASA JR.,
deputy secretary general,
Legislative Operations
Department,
House of Representatives

Always scrambling for temporary solutions

WHEN will the government be sincere in its provision of public service?

Take the recent beating the country absorbed from typhoon "Chedeng." When some areas became flooded, the government scampered to provide makeshift solutions. Various task forces were formed to contain the typhoon's damage. But to date, the death toll already numbered 40. Many more have been injured.

No solution to the country's problems is ever permanent. Our horizon is so short, we seem to be always cramming for temporary measures and incapable of handling even the simplest misfortune.

How many typhoons, for instance, have hit the country, wrecked our property, and even left us grieving for our dead? We may individually have wanted to prepare for such a catastrophe but preparations should involve all our communities but ultimately it is the responsibility of the government to protect the entire nation.

But it seems that our government is always bereft of solutions. Even very predictable occurrences like the rainy season take the government by surprise. We have known for so long that because of the inadequate drainage system, many of our streets become impassable.

The result of lack of action is that production grinds to a halt, classes are suspended and people drown.

Many of our cities and municipalities have long-standing plans that could have minimized the damage wrought by typhoons and the flooding that comes with it. For some reasons, these are very difficult to implement. We have problems with coordination, red tape, infighting. Politicking more often than not derails the potent capacities of these solutions to permanently safeguard the public.

Take the City of Malabon. The office of Mayor Amado Vicencio has drawn up and prepared the implementation of a Mega Flood-Control Facility that has the potential to relieve the flood-prone city from being devastated by flooding. But the local government's initiative got stuck at the Department of Public Work and Highways (DPWH) due to a minor issue in design that is taking years to resolve.

The national government should stop making those costly disaster commercial and provide real solutions.

The real disasters come when public service takes the backseat for politics.

—JOSE F. DYLIAOCO,
97 Sanclangco St., Tonsuya,
Malabon City

FPJ boosters capitalizing on voters' naïveté

THE SUPPORTERS of Fernando Poe Jr. who are pushing his presidential candidacy are merely banking on his popularity. To hell with the national interest, if they can wrest control of Malacañang with the use of what they expect to be a puppet. This is the reason for their obsession to field FPJ.

They are capitalizing on the naïveté and ignorance of voters as well as the laxity of the electoral system. This is why too many misfits have been elected to sensitive posts. Even nincompoops and criminals are elected, thanks to our brand of democracy.

Dolphy is more intelligent than we think, more intelligent than many candidates, even those elected. Based on popularity and the tendency of voters, Dolphy is a sure winner for any elective post. But he, without second thoughts, has dismissed suggestions that he seek public office. "I can win," he said. "That is what scares me. What will I do once elected?"

Dolphy wants to leave politics to politicians. FPJ would do well to emulate him instead of succumbing to opportunism.

Anyone seeking the presidency should have a remarkable track record in governance. Because of his tested competence and remarkable accomplishments, Bayani Fernando, MMDA chair, would be an ideal choice except that our electors are immature.

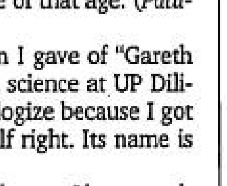
As long as we have unthinking voters, deserving candidates with limited resources and fame stand little chance against moneyed and popular opponents like movie stars.

This calls for constitutional amendment and it should be the foremost reason for Charter change. National destiny, which unworthy candidates and incompetent voters have long toyed with, is the paramount justification for Cha-cha.

This may be the key to national maturity and economic recovery.

—JOE MARQUEZ, Sto. Niño,
Parañaque City

Pink elephant syndrome



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

NEVER start a speech with an apology, I was told many years ago. I presume that applies to columns as well, but I'm going to make an exception here because the apology gives me an excuse to write about the brain, sticky tunes and pink elephants.

Last Thursday my column was about the plight of state universities and colleges, with references to the admirable efforts of the faculty to make the best of a difficult situation. I mentioned two UP professors who had retired and were serving other state universities. It turned out that one of them, Prof. Jaime Veneracion, has not retired but is giving some of his time to the Bulacan State University. Nope, Sir Jimmy isn't 65 yet, but has the sagacity of people of that age. (*Palusot...*)

More embarrassing was a glowing description I gave of "Gareth Evans," who uses Shakespeare to teach political science at UP Diliman. Now, head bowed in shame, I have to apologize because I got the name of this very popular professor only half right. Its name is Gareth Richards.

For days after that column, which I spent in Palawan, I became almost obsessed trying to figure out how I ended up writing "Gareth Evans." I knew it had something to do with the way our brains lap up information rather voraciously. I've learned to "exploit" this ability of the brain, training it to capture all kinds of detailed information which I can use in my research, writing and teaching.

But this ability of the brain has its disadvantages, in the way it stores and connects the massive amounts of information. For example, the brain likes to pick up "sticky tunes"—simple but repetitive tunes like "Shalala" or "Dilemma." Just mentioning those tunes activates a "playback" button in my brain, the tunes exploding in a mad mental cacophony which will probably last the whole day.

The brain's predilection for certain types of information probably served a purpose in our evolutionary past. My speculation is that maybe our ancestors' brains started out "recording" certain calls of animals, a way of getting our hunter-ancestors to associate each call with a message: "predator," "food," "friend." Those who were good at capturing and storing these sound bites, together with what they meant, had better chances of survival.

In this 21st century, there is no survival value to replaying "Dilemma" over and over again in the brain, but there may be other uses for these "recordings." Repeated sounds are still useful for learning: note how as children we were made to read out loud, a way to get us to learn the alphabet and words more quickly.

I've wondered at times if this whole "sticky memories" thing might even be culturally institutionalized. For example, Filipinos tend to be quite repetitive with stories, repeating certain details over and over again even in the course of the same conversation.

I see similar patterns in other societies, even among Americans, and see a common denominator: low levels of reading literacy. Given that we don't rely too much on the written word, we end up repeating certain details as a way of ensuring that the stories are remembered.

Note that evangelists and politicians are particularly adept at using this method of repeating key messages over and over again in their rallies. Eventually, the substance of the messages isn't as important as getting the song's lyrics, or a sermon's messages or a political candidate's name to dock on and colonize the brain's neurons like tiny viruses. (If I might be a bit nasty here, I think this is why people who enjoy such songs or conversations eventually end up with brains like mush, all the better to receive the inane stories and songs.)

The human brain deserves more than sticky tunes and political or religious pep talks. In societies that rely more on the written word, there is less use of repetition, and greater reliance on literary tropes or figures of speech like metaphors and irony and hyperbole. It is these tropes that stimulate the brain to do more than store the bits of information. The brain gets to exercise more here because it gets to play with the words, unraveling the nuanced meanings, the wit, the punch lines.

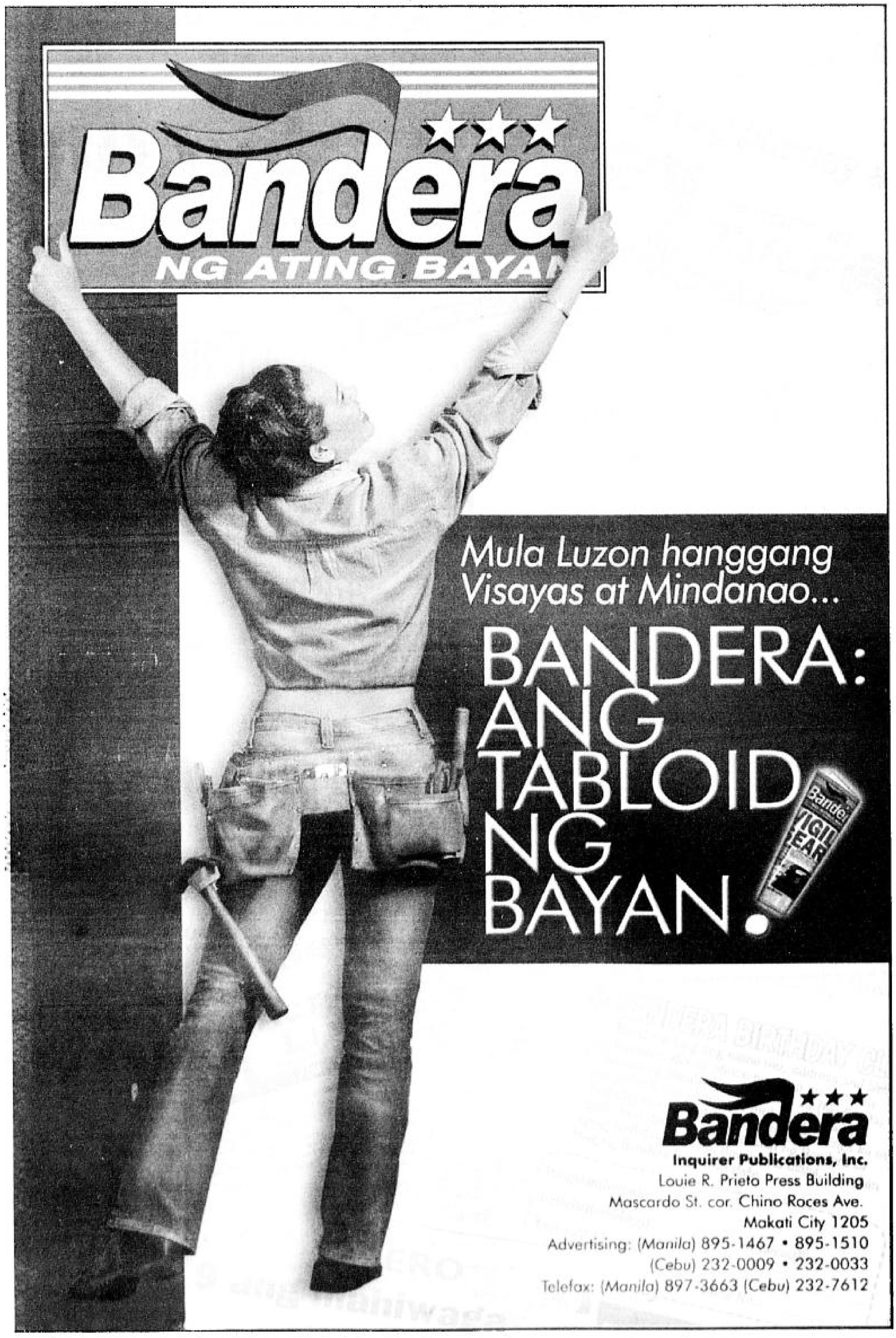
When exposed to extraordinary sensory inputs, the brain goes beyond recording mode. A clinical psychologist based at McGill University, Susan Ball, describes the "pink elephant syndrome": If you tell yourself not to think of a pink elephant, that's a guarantee the pink elephant will recur in your brain. It's not that a pink elephant is important but that it's just so out of the ordinary. Once evoked in the brain, our neurons are titillated enough to store it, calling up our imagination so the pink elephant is transformed and given a new life, maybe wearing a tutu and prancing down Cubao in the rain, its trunk wielding an umbrella.

Mind you, we did have cultural institutions for brain work-outs. A good example is the *balagtasan*, where people playfully debated in verse, working out the right cadences and rhyming on the spot. Alas, all that is disappearing now, several generations (including my own) dumbed down by mindless rock tunes, TV sitcoms and tabloid news.

So how did Gareth Evans end up in my column? With the help of a leisurely cruise down Puerto Princesa's underground river and, eventually, the Internet and Google, it all finally came together: last year, I read an article by Gareth Evans in the British paper The Guardian. Evans, who used to be the Australian foreign minister, urged new ways of looking at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

You figure out how my brain got the wires crossed: Gareth Evans, Israel, Palestine, The Guardian, Britain, UP's Gareth Richards (who is British). Ay yay yay, the brain is a wonder, but it can be tricky when left on its own.

Now if I can just switch off my brain's images of a pink elephant, reading The Guardian while rapping to the beat of "Dilemma."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Basilan governor's role in Lamitan disturbing

From page A1

height of the siege." [Akbar has denied the claim.]

The House investigation differed from that of the Senate in its conclusion: It only found evidence of serious operational lapses by the Armed Forces. [In this respect, it echoed the AFP Inspector General's report.]

The Lamitan witnesses who testified before both the Senate and the House committees have denounced the House findings [which were released on Oct. 24, 2002] for not going far enough.

But a close reading of the committee report itself shows that it already makes a strong case against certain military officials [and Akbar].

Like the report [leaked to the press in September 2001] of then-Inspector General Reynaldo Rivera and five other members of a military fact-finding board, the House report concluded that Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, then the AFP chief of staff, and Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, then the commander of the anti-Abu Task Force Comet, erred disastrously in sending late reinforcements to the scene.

Instead of sending the 18th Infantry Battalion in nearby Tuburan town, as requested by Col. Juvenal Narcise, the generals dispatched the AFP counterterrorist force from Zamboanga City. "One thing is absolutely certain: THIS ORDER TURNED OUT TO BE A FATAL MISTAKE," the committee concluded [all caps in the original].

Security hazard?

A joint report by journalists from The Boston Globe and Helsingin Sanomat in February 2002 sounded the alarm over the possible security hazard the alleged collusion between the AFP and the Abu Sayyaf posed to US troops conducting counterterrorism training in Basilan.

As in other probes, the damning pullout of government troops from the back of the hospital compound between 3 and 4 p.m. on June 2—thus allowing the Abu Sayyaf to exit at about 5:30—stood out for sheer inexplicability.

The Senate, after hearings chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., found "strong circumstantial evidence" to support the allegations of collusion. [There is a passing mention of Akbar.]

The Senate also recommended courts-martial for Dominguez, Narcise, then the chief of the 103rd Brigade, and Maj. Eliseo Campued, who was the ranking officer on the scene.

To date, however, not a single officer or local government official has been brought to court.

Dominguez was reassigned to Samar as chief of the 8th Infantry Division. He was subsequently promoted to major general.

In an interview for the Globe-Sanomat story, Dominguez explained that the decision to send reinforcements from Zamboanga—it took the troops 11 hours to reach the hospital—was actually made by three generals: Villanueva, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, then the chief of the Southern Command, and himself.

Narcise, who was also faulted by the House for staying at the Lamitan District Hospital and not at the scene during the most crucial hours of June 2, was eventually reassigned as chief of the 702nd Infantry Brigade in Nueva Ecija.

Campued, who failed to follow standard operating procedures at the site, is now training chief of the 1st Infantry Division in Zamboanga del Sur.

Villanueva, who immediately offered to resign after Rivera's unflattering report came out, has continued to enjoy President Macapagal-Arroyo's confidence. Now retired, he is the country's postmaster general.

More reassignments

Camiling is currently commanding general of the Philippine Army.

Rivera, the former inspector general, was reassigned to Samar as Dominguez's deputy soon after his report came out. Today, he is detailed to the AFP General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo. Like Dominguez, he has been promoted to major general.

Akbar's current term ends in June 2004.

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of St. Peter's Church and the most vocal critic of the military's actions during the Lamitan siege, said yesterday the witnesses of Lamitan were "hoping against hope" that justice would still be done. But none of them expected resolution to come by way of the AFP.

"What is needed here is the Ombudsman, or the DOJ [Department of Justice]," he told the INQUIRER, shortly after he celebrated early morning Mass for 12 of the witnesses who had stepped forward and risked their lives. "An independent body, not the military." *With assistance from PDI Research*

A reporter remembers

ABOUT a dozen reporters witnessed the siege of Lamitan. Howie Severino of GMA-7 was one of them.

"Looking back on what happened in Lamitan and the stakes involved, it could be easily considered the single biggest failure in Philippine military history," Severino told the INQUIRER.

"Two years after the incident, I still feel outraged by it, having witnessed several people die."

Severino, who produces and reports documentaries, was named Broadcast Journalist of the Year by the Rotary Club of Manila last week.

In an email message, he recalled moments during the siege that he said could be proof of either "monumental incompetence" or actual collusion.

"When I witnessed the Lamitan incident along with about a dozen other reporters, it was plain to see the stupidity of using helicopter gunships and armored Simbas to blast the hospital compound almost indiscriminately—this went on for over 17 hours without any effect except to endanger many innocent civilians, especially the hostages. It seemed that in the absence of any other tactics, the hope was to create enough confusion for some hostages to escape."

He then outlined what must be one of the most tantalizing what-if scenarios in recent Philippine history. "If the military had done what almost any other military in the world would have done—which was to keep the ASG surrounded, lay siege for days or weeks if necessary, and negotiate the release of hostages or attempt a rescue—they could have succeeded in ending at least one branch of the ASG there and then, the Filipino troops would have been heroes, domestic confidence in the Philippine military and government would have shot up ... and dozens of people, including perhaps Guillermo Sobero and Martin Burnham, would still be alive."

John Nery

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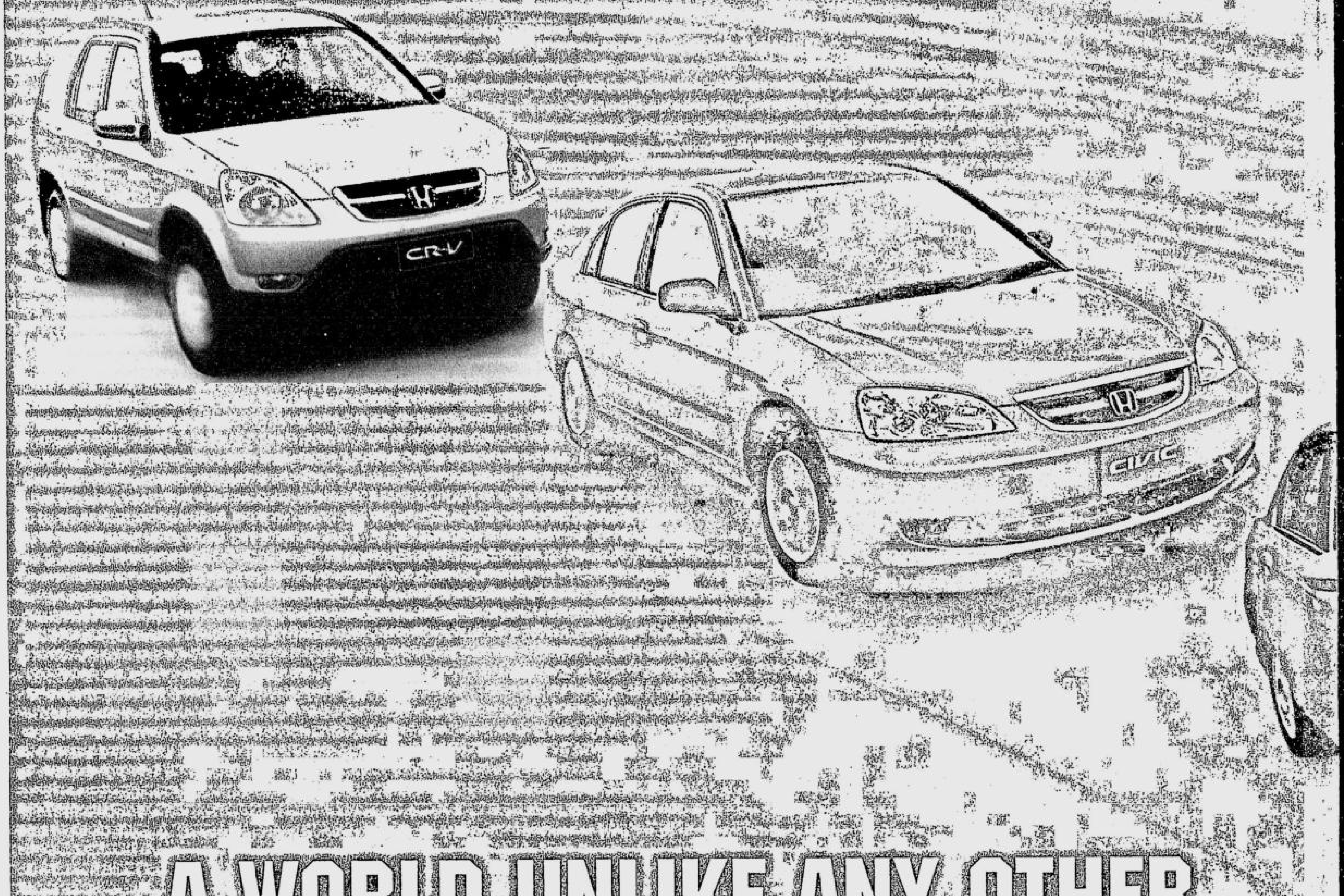

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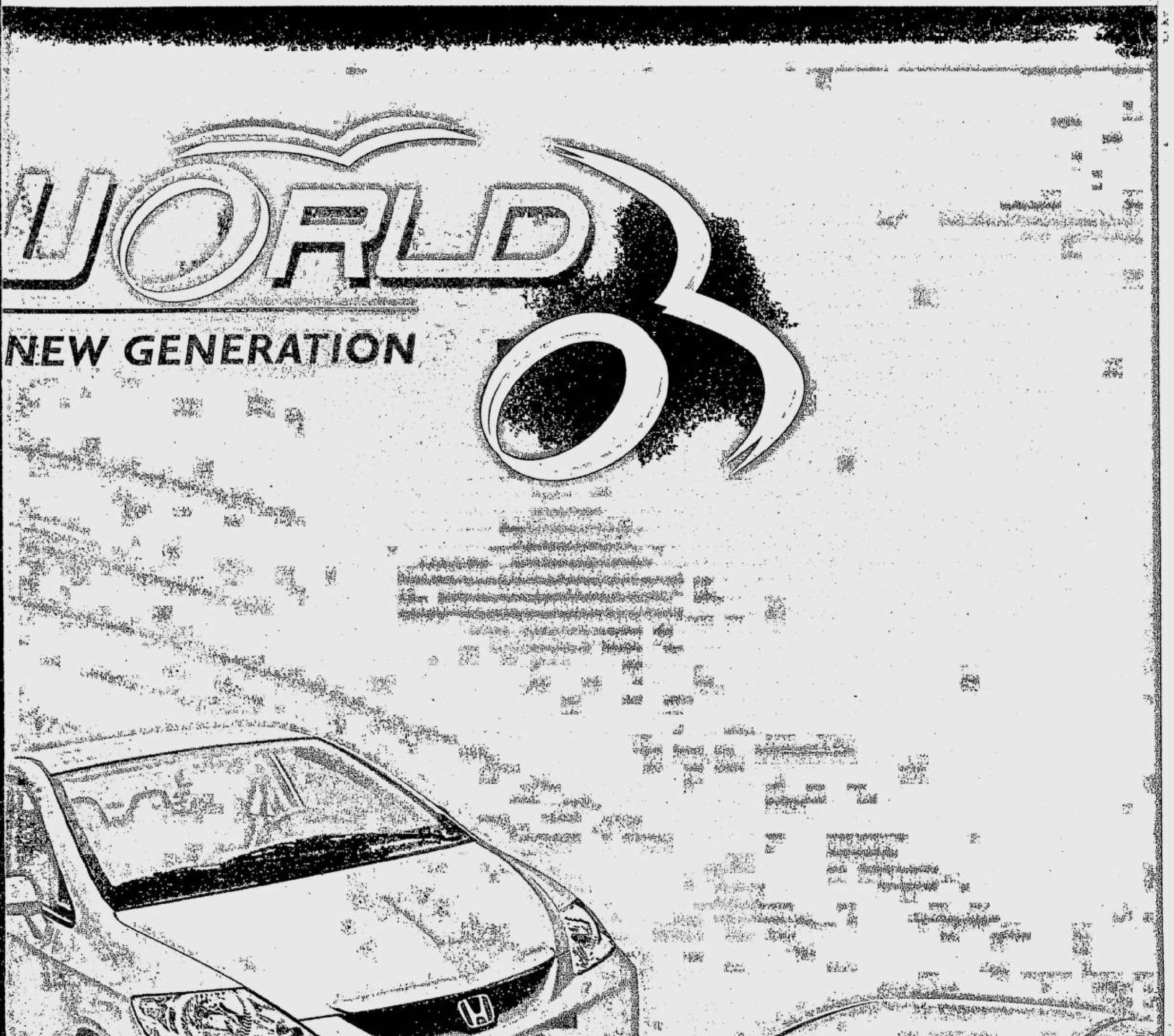
WORLD
NEW GENERATION
CITY
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HONDA

EVIAN SUMMIT

G-8 confident on world recovery

EVIAN, France—World leaders plan to voice confidence in a global economic recovery at the summit of powerful industrial states on Monday, as they also try to find ways to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

But the Group of Eight (G-8) summit did not plan any declaration about the US dollar's fall, a key factor troubling its major trading partners.

A G-8 source said that the summit, in its second day, would send the morale-boosting message that falling oil prices and resumed political cooperation among squabbling allies had brightened the outlook for business.

After tackling world economic issues on Monday morning, summit leaders—from the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Russia—would discuss the Middle East and efforts to contain weapons of mass destruction.

Lingering strains between host nation France—a fierce critic of the Iraq war—and the US hung over the three-day summit, which President George W. Bush planned to leave in mid-afternoon for meetings in the Middle East.

"The G-8 will declare its confidence in the potential for economic recovery in light of the fall in oil prices and ending of uncertainty," the G-8 source said.

"A specific communique on currencies is not planned," the source said. The summit had not planned to broach the issue of the dollar's record lows against the euro, but agreed to discuss it under pressure from European delegations and Japan.

The first post-Iraq war encounter between Bush and French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday was stiff and chilly. Bush also planned a 20-minute "courtesy call" on the French leader—far less than the 75 minutes Chirac spent with China's new President Hu Jintao.

Chirac highlighted their continuing differences on Sunday by arguing that the vast majority of people shared his vision of a "multipolar world," in which the United States would not be the sole dominant power. He urged Bush to follow his example and invite leaders of developing nations to the next G-8 meeting.

American officials insisted there was no need for allies to try to check US power and said Bush would seek backing for new moves to stop and seize suspected shipments of nuclear, chemical or biological weapon parts or missiles.

The summit's opening day on Sunday was marred by anarchists and anti-capitalists rampaging through the streets of Geneva and Lausanne in nearby Switzerland, smashing shops and looting businesses as the leaders met beyond their reach in France. *Reuters*

PARTICIPANTS of the enlarged dialogue meeting at the G-8 summit sit at the discussion table in Evian on June 1. British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) sits across Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (right), Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (second right) and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah (third right).

REUTERS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 3, 2003
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading:	**Acts 20:17-27**
Gospel:	**Jn 17:1-11**

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; give glory to your Son, that the Son may give glory to you. You have given him power over all mortals, and you want him to bring eternal life to all you have entrusted to him. For this is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and the One you sent, Jesus Christ.

"I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, give me in your presence the same Glory I had with you before the world began.

"I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they kept your word. And now they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you. I have given them the teaching I received from you, and they received it and know in truth that I came from you; and they believe that you have sent me.

"I pray for them; I do not pray for the world but for those who belong to you and whom you have given to me-indeed all I have is yours and all you have is mine-and now they are my glory. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world whereas I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your Name (that you have given me,) so that they may be one, just as we are."

Commentary

We are privileged to hear the beatings of the heart of Jesus in prayer in the moment looked death in the eyes. "Give glory to your Son," he prays, "that the Son may give glory to you." It was not a selfish petition for Jesus' own aggrandizement, much less a prayer for God to enter into a quid pro quo deal. It is a prayer of longing. Jesus asked to be restored to the presence of the Father to share once more in the glory that was his before the creation of the world (Jn 1:1-2). Having revealed the only true God as Father of all, he asked to return home, knowing that his disciples also know their way there. He prayed for their protection and their unity, lest they be tempted to stray.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Liberal interpretation of the Rules of Court—A litigation is a contest in which each contending party fully and fairly lays before the court the facts in issue and then, brushing aside as wholly trivial and indecisive all imperfections of form and technicalities, asks that justice be done on the merits. Hence, Rule 1, Section 6 of the Rules of Court mandates that rules of procedure shall be liberally interpreted. In the instant case, we agree with petitioners that the Court of Appeals erred in stressing too much petitioners' failure to comply with technicalities. We cannot attribute to petitioners the perceived defects on the attached copies of the trial court's orders because petitioners did not have control over their preparation. Moreover, Rule 131, Section 3 (ff) of the Rules of Court lays the presumption in petitioners' favor that they followed the pertinent rules on attaching certified copies of the orders subject of their petition below. As private respondent failed to show evidence to rebut this presumption, the presumption must stand. We likewise rule that in the present case, the alleged failure to attach all pleadings and documents is not a sufficient ground to dismiss the petition. In appropriate cases, the courts may liberally construe procedural rules in order to meet and advance the cause of substantial justice. We have held that lapses in the literal observation of a procedural rule will be overlooked when they do not involve public policy, when they arose from an honest mistake or unforeseen accident, when they have not prejudiced the adverse party, nor deprived the court of its authority. In the instant case, petitioners' failure to append: (1) herein respondent's Answer to the Petition for Review filed on January 2, 1997; (2) petitioners' Memorandum filed on April 28, 1997; and (3) respondent's Memorandum filed on May 16, 1997, all of which were mentioned in the petition for certiorari before the appellate court do not touch on public policy, nor do they deprive the appellate court of its authority. No right of respondent is prejudiced or adversely affected. Lastly, it is not required under Rule 65, Section 1 of the Rules of Court that the trial judge himself be impleaded in a petition for certiorari. The rule clearly states that a petition for certiorari may be filed against the tribunal, board or officer exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions. The inclusion of the tribunal, which issued the decision, as nominal party, was substantially complied with. When petitioners mentioned the Regional Trial Court, Branch 21 of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, they also referred necessarily to the judge who issued the assailed resolutions.

[Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Resolution, Molina v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 143156. Jan. 13, 2003]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Sharon leaves for Jordan peace summit

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is heading to the Jordan peace summit confident of US President George W. Bush's approval of the first steps Israel has taken to advance the US-backed Mideast peace roadmap.

The three-way summit, to be held Wednesday in the Jordanian Red Sea resort of Aqaba, will see Bush, Sharon and the latter's Palestinian counterpart Mahmud Abbas publicly shaking hands for the first time in a high-profile ceremony aimed at kick-starting implementation of the roadmap.

It will be the first US-Israeli-Palestinian gathering since October 2000, when the three parties, represented then by Bush's and Sharon's predecessors Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak, and since marginalized Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, met at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Central to the meeting is the peace roadmap, a document drawn up by top officials from the United States, United Nations, Russia and the European Union, which lays out steps to end the current violence and revive political dialogue and eventually to create a Palestinian state by 2005.

Since its publication on April 30, the roadmap has made no impact on the ground—until last week, that is, when Sharon and his Palestinian counterpart Abbas met in Jerusalem and agreed on a raft of measures to launch the process.

And with initial evidence of changes on the ground, the Aqaba summit looks set to formalize the beginning of the roadmap's long-awaited implementation.

"It's the inauguration where we smash the champagne bottle against the side of the boat and set out on the maiden voyage," Sharon's spokesperson Ranaan Gissin said. "We're cautiously optimistic."

"Things are still being discussed, but most of the things have already been said, so people know how we are starting," he said, referring to the steps agreed during last week's discussions between the two premiers.

With the summit's agenda carefully planned by a cautious US administration, analysts believed it was unlikely there would be any unexpected announcements.

"We shouldn't expect any surprises," said political scientist Gerald Steinberg from Bar Ilan University. *AFP*

Twins joined in the head agree to risky surgery to be separated

SINGAPORE—Adult twins joined at the head will undergo surgery to be separated next month in a world-first operation that their doctors said Monday could kill them or leave them in a vegetative state.

Laleh and Ladan Bijani, 28-year-old sisters from Iran, have submitted to a battery of tests in Singapore over the past seven months to determine whether the unprecedented operation could succeed.

Attempts by the twins, both qualified lawyers, to have their operation elsewhere in the world were rejected, with doctors in Germany saying one or both of them could die.

While doctors at Raffles Hospital, where the operation will be conducted, were upbeat in assessing the sisters' chances of survival, they also warned of the risks.

"All the investigations have been carefully studied in consultation with many experts. We believe that surgery is feasible," the surgical team's co-leaders Keith Goh and Walter Tan said in a statement.

"We will do our utmost to help the twins achieve their dream of living life as two separate individuals."

Goh, a neurosurgeon, did concede that the women could die or be left in a vegetative state from the operation, an outcome he said had been carefully explained to them in psychological counseling.

"The risks are high," Goh said at a press conference. *AFP*

Another SARS death in HK

HONG KONG—Hong Kong on Monday reported its second death in as many days of a frontline SARS health worker, while Canadian nurses accused hospital officials of ignoring warnings of Toronto's latest outbreak.

The virus showed signs of abating in Taiwan—but that didn't stop islanders from coining a new name for it: "Chinese pneumonia." SARS was first detected in southern China last November and some Taiwanese say the name suits the view that their communist neighbor is a serious threat.

Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra predicted that SARS will be contained by the end of June and that regional economies will recover from its effects by the end of August.

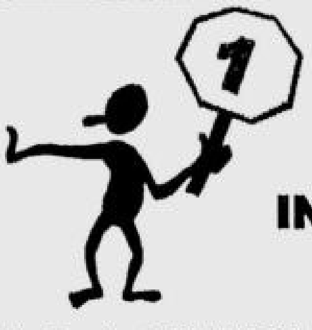
"I think SARS itself is not as (bad) as the fear of SARS. The fear of SARS is outrageous," Thaksin said after the opening a two-day meeting of trade ministers of the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

The ministers are expected to endorse an emergency plan on reviving trade and tourism affected by SARS.

In Malaysia, authorities have refused to accept some 2,000 stray cats from neighboring Singapore that animal rights activists rescued from being killed in a cleanliness campaign aimed at fighting SARS. *AP*

STOP SARS ATTACK DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

TUESDAY 3 June 2003



ONLY ONE (1) SARS CASE IN QUARANTINE

The Department of Health (DOH) disclosed today that its Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) expert panel, which regularly evaluates suspects if they fit the clinical definition, has declared today that the two suspect cases reported last week are not SARS cases.

To date, there is just one remaining suspect in quarantine, the Filipina, EK, who flew in to Manila from Taiwan on May 17 and developed fever on May 29. The DOH, this early, said that it is an unlikely SARS case as she had developed the symptoms 12 days after she arrived in the country.

Health authorities said that EK's sister and niece are now also under quarantine, as close contacts, because they accompanied her in the ambulance that took her to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - June 2, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	87
total discharged	84
presently admitted (June 2, 2003)	3
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	10

SARS HOTLINES: 741-7045 / 743-1937 or Type MED<space>SARS then send to 2333 for Globe subscribers or 257 for Smart users or text HOTLINE SARS <space> (Message) then send to 2960 or EMAIL sars@doh.gov.ph

WORLDBRIEFS

Cure for colon cancer

CHICAGO—The fortunes of Erbitux, the experimental medicine that brought down the head of ImClone in a Wall Street scandal, got a boost Sunday from a new study that concluded it helps terminally ill victims of colon cancer. The new research, conducted in Europe, found that nearly a quarter of patients improved temporarily when they got Erbitux along with standard chemotherapy. The result mirrors the finding of an earlier study sponsored by ImClone Systems. Because of shortcomings in that earlier study, the Food and Drug Administration refused to accept ImClone's application for approval of the drug. *AP*

Sonia Gandhi supports peace initiative

BARAMULLAH, India—Sonia Gandhi, leader of the opposition Indian National Congress Party, said in public rally here yesterday that she extended full support to the government in talks with Pakistan. She said the Kashmir dispute could only be resolved by a dialogue process, not by military might. Gandhi, the wife of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, welcomed the peace initiatives taken by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to normalize India-Pakistan relations and expressed hopes that both counties would usher in a new beginning of good will.

The Statesman of India/ Asia News Network

Indonesia mulls over options vs Sweden

JAKARTA—Indonesia is considering options to downgrade ties with Sweden over the latter's refusal to take action against Aceh rebel leaders who have claimed Swedish citizenship amid pressure to severe diplomatic ties altogether. Indonesia's options were drafted in a meeting at the residence of foreign minister Hassan Wirayuda on Sunday, said a ministry spokesperson. "We have been identifying several diplomatic options regarding the (rejection) letter . . . some of these options are complementary and some are alternatives," Marty said. When asked whether the options included a possible downgrading of relations with Sweden, he said, "It has been discussed among officials, but this will be decided at a Cabinet meeting as soon as possible." On Saturday, Sweden officially rejected Indonesia's request to take actions the leaders of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) separatists Hasan Tiro, Malik Mahmood and Abdullah Zaini, who are Swedish nationals.

The Jakarta Post/ Asia News Network

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Probe of Pangasinan flooding urged

DAGUPAN CITY—Pangasinan officials are seeking a congressional inquiry into the cause of the widespread flooding in the province last week, after an unusual level of floodwaters rose less than 24 hours of rain spawned by tropical storm "Chedeng."

President Macapagal-Arroyo, during a visit here last week, said the newly opened San Roque multi-purpose dam in San Manuel town, which catches water from the Ambuklao and Binga dams in Benguet, did not release water. Ms Macapagal assured local officials that it was the heavy rains that caused the flooding.

But some local officials, especially in areas gravely affected by floods, said they still wanted to know where the big volume of water came from.

Dagupan Mayor Benjamin Lim said while it may be true that the dams in Pangasinan and Benguet did not open their spillway gates, "we still need a definitive answer to what caused the floods and what should be done to prevent similar occurrences."

The level of floodwaters in the city was higher by half a meter than that of the flood caused by Typhoon Gading in 1998.

"Common sense would tell us that the water came from a big source," said Lim.

He said he would ask Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who represents Pangasinan's fourth district, to conduct an inquiry "to get to the bottom of (the cause of the floods) and to find a solution to the problem."

"We (will be) in danger of inundation every month during the rainy days if we do not know what (causes) the floods now," he added.

Pangasinan Rep. Generoso Tulagan said it was "incredible" that the big volume of water was caused only by heavy rains.

Tulagan said he would initiate a congressional inquiry to determine if the dams released excess water.

In Central Luzon, flood-affected residents in 311 villages in seven provinces increased to 207,419 as tropical storm Dodong re-entered the country on Sunday.

Bulacan, the hardest hit by flooding reported the highest number of flood victims at 111,760 or almost 60 percent of the region's affected residents.

Four children drowned as rivers swelled in Meycauayan and Marilao.

The DSWD said the bodies of two persons reportedly had drowned last week and remained missing till Monday. They were two-year-old Tyru Hiroshi of Cabanatuan City, and 17-year-old Joanne Gonzales of Pilar, Bataan.

In Nueva Ecija, a nine-year-old boy from San Antonio town drowned while trying to catch a duck in a flooded village in the town on Friday afternoon.

The boy, Raymart Salvador of Barangay Panabingan, San Antonio, was sucked by a whirlpool in a drainage system in the area.

In Aurora, eight villages in Casiguran town suffered from a flashflood that forced 255 families to move to higher grounds on Sunday.

In Pampanga, the provincial disaster coordinating council said only three villages in Candaba town were swamped by two to four feet of floodwaters after the Pampanga River overflowed on Sunday. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Imee bats for more discounts for studes

LEGAZPI CITY—Amid tuition increases and the similarly skyrocketting prices of commodities and services, the Lower House is trying to alleviate parents and students' burden during school opening by legislating for students' discounts on cell cards, books, shoes, transportation, movie theaters and other products and services they need, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said.

On her visit here for the culmination of the Magayon Festival on Saturday, Marcos told the INQUIRER that she had already called on the Department of Education to work out an arrangement with business establishments to extend discount privileges for students.

She said she had been pushing for these student privileges since 1999 through House Bill 852 entitled "College and Post-Graduate Students Benefit Act of 1999" as counterpart of the senior citizens' discount privileges.

But, she said, her colleagues in Congress have not given these due attention.

The member of the House committee on youth and sports development claimed that if the discounts were approved, students would be able to save at least P1-P5 each ride in a public transportation alone.

The coverage, she said, is not only for jeepneys in Metro Manila but also for FX mini-vans, provincial buses going to Metro Manila, trains, MRT and LRT coaches and commercial airlines. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

COFFEE FOR BABY

A baby is fed coffee instead of milk at the evacuation center in Buisan, Pikit, Cotabato. EDWIN BACASMAS

Cotabato judge threatens to cite environment execs for contempt

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—For not complying with his order, a municipal trial court judge has threatened to cite for contempt the chief of South Cotabato's Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) and some government officials and employees.

The threat was prompted by the refusal of Penro and Tampakan officials to release some 3,500 board feet of lumber products owned by the Danlag B'laan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DBMPC).

Tampakan town Judge Oscar Noel, however, gave Penro Sacarudin Magarang time to explain why he failed to implement the release order.

Tampakan officials seized the lumber products in February on suspicion these were illegally cut.

DBMPC, a Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) holder in Tampakan, was able to present documents showing the forest products were legally obtained.

Instead of ordering its release, Magarang impounded the shipment at the Tampakan police station.

No charges were filed against DBMPC.

The cooperative then filed a petition for a writ of replevin before the Tampakan court, which was subsequently granted.

A replevin is a special court order for the recovery of property wherein the petitioner is required to put up a bond.

But Magarang failed to implement the order, prompting Noel to issue another order on May 23 with a warning to cite him and other officials for contempt.

"They should first refresh their memories before they start barking . . . and not to employ force and arrogance to defy the orders of this court," Noel wrote in his second order.

Noel said he would not hesitate to use his powers if the respondents continued to be defiant.

DBMPC chair Dalina Samling told reporters that Magarang started harassing them after she refused to give in to the demand of the Penro chief.

Samling said Magarang has been demanding P0.50 for every board foot of lumber transported by the cooperative.

This, she said, also caused Coop officials to file graft charges against Magarang and some provincial environment officials. The case is pending before the Ombudsman.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Magarang. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

19 students refused enrolment

VALENCIA CITY—While students at the Central Mindanao University (CMU) in Bukidnon are busy preparing for the school year, 19 others are readying charges against the state institution's president for denying them admission.

CMU President Mardanio Lao on May 26 issued a memorandum ordering all college heads not to admit officers of the Supreme Student Council (SSC) and the Central Post, the campus publication, for allegedly having financial accountabilities.

He also instructed the college heads to advise the students to see him before enrolling.

One of the students, Maida Borbon, the incoming SSC president and student regent of the university, accused Lao of blocking her assumption of the position she won in February's elections.

Borbon won over Neil dela Cruz, who took his oath of office at Lao's office on May 27.

"He doesn't like me because he sees me as a liability to the strategy he is employing to delay President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation 310 that declared the segregation of 670 hectares of CMU area (sic) to the indigenous people," Borbon said.

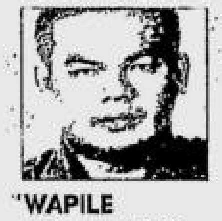
Lao also sent to the students' parents a letter informing them that their children were no longer enrolled at CMU. The letter included a photo of the students in a rally questioning why Borbon was not declared winner in the SSC elections. The rally was staged during the commencement exercises.

Lao said the protesters were not considered CMU students as they were not enrolled for summer classes.

Lao, in a phone interview with the INQUIRER, said the parents should be thankful that he invoked the parental rights of the school since the students are into meaningless activism, and that the parents should know about it.

"We have an institutional academic freedom, the right of the school to choose its students. UP (University of the Philippines) does this and I am going to invoke it with them. I am going to face that legal case they are readying," Lao said. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 386 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

'Boat people' from Zamboanga dock off Zambales coast

IBA, Zambales—Thirty-four "boat people," 14 of them children, from Mindanao quietly arrived here last week and settled on an island off the coast of this town, local officials said.

Alejandrino Cabal, barangay captain of Palanginan, said the "boat people" comprising of six families are Badjaos from Zamboanga City. They used five small outriggers and a larger boat when they arrived on May 26 on Bangan-Talisay, an island formed by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions in 1991 off the coast of this town.

Cabal said local officials discovered their presence when tropical storm Chedeng hit the area last week. He said the group was forced to ask help from authorities after strong rains and winds destroyed their makeshift huts in the island.

The families, who claimed they were original residents of Rio Hondo district in Zamboanga City, are now housed at the Palanginan barangay hall.

"We were surprised because they did not inform anyone when they arrived in our territory. Thanks to the storm, we discovered that there were settlers (on) one of our islands," Cabal said.

He said they could not force the families to leave the town. He said he was worried that they could not sustain the basic needs of these families because their village has limited calamity funds.

But Absara Naga, 50, the group leader, said their group did not come straight from Mindanao but from Sitio Balogo, Barangay Matalbis in nearby Masinloc town.

Naga said they were staying in Masinloc for the last five years until local officials drove them away recently.

He said their group was forced to leave Zamboanga City in 1998 because of the conflict between Moro rebels and government forces.

"We were caught in the crossfire. The Badjaos' only means of livelihood is fishing. We are a peaceful people. We are in Luzon because we wanted to avoid the war and the abuses of our fellow Muslims," Naga said.

He claimed that Masinloc officials forced them to leave the town or face charges of unsanitary practices and destroying the environment.

But Naga's son, Mannon, claimed that they were driven away because the local government was planning to use the area for its fish cage project.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Masinloc Mayor Jessu Edora. A member of his staff, however, denied the group's accusations.

The staff member also claimed the group was involved in illegal fishing. The source said the group was a "threat to public health and sanitation" because they did not have toilets in their makeshift houses.

"We can allow them to stay in our town but they should obey local laws or ordinances," the source said.

Naga appealed to Iba officials to allow them to stay. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspected SARS patient improving, says DOH in Eastern Visayas

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The 30-year-old Filipina suspected to be suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has shown signs of improvement, according to the Department of Health in Eastern Visayas (DOH-8).

Dr. Benita Pastor, DOH-8 assistant director, said the fever of the woman, identified only by her initials EK, dropped from 40 degrees to 36.6 degrees

The initial x-ray results on EK also showed that she was suffering from tuberculosis, Pastor said.

Still, she said, they have not ruled out the possibility that EK is suffering from SARS because she fell ill two weeks after she arrived from Taiwan, one of the Asian countries with high cases of SARS.

EK will still have to undergo several tests at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) where she has been confined since Sunday to determine if she is infected with the virus.

Pastor said they will only discharge EK from the hospital if she is cleared by doctors who are trained on SARS.

EK, a native of Hilongos, Leyte, is married to a Taiwanese. She returned to the Philippines on May 17. Her husband opted to stay in Taiwan.

On May 29, she went to see a private physician in Hilongos after she suffered from high fever and difficulty of breathing, two SARS symptoms.

The doctor immediately informed the local health official of EK's condition. The local health official, in turn, notified Dr. Nicholas Bautista, DOH-8 chief epidemiologist.

Bautista picked up EK from her home in Hilongos in a DOH ambulance and brought her to the EVRMC, the designated SARS center in the region.

Also confined in separate rooms at the EVRMC's isolation ward are EK's younger sister and niece who had close contacts with EK.

Dr. Adelaida Asperin, EVRMC's chief of hospital, said test results showed that the two were also suffering from tuberculosis. "They will not be discharged yet as they will be given medications for TB," she said.

Asperin said EK also made close contacts to five other persons—her father and four other siblings who were asked by the DOH-8 to undergo voluntary quarantine.

In Negros Occidental, the Bureau of Immigration barred the 21 crewmembers of the Panamanian-registered vessel that arrived from Taiwan on Sunday from leaving their ship as a precaution against the spread of the virus that caused SARS.

MV Dang Nisa docked at the privately owned Real Estate Development Corp. at 7:28 a.m. to deliver 3,530 metric tons of ammonium sulphate from Kaohsiung, Taiwan, said Alien Control Officer Mita Chuvy Arguelles.

The crewmembers were composed of six Taiwanese, 10 Indonesian, three Filipinos and two Myanmar citizens who had not shown any SARS symptoms.

The wives of the Filipino crewmen who arrived from Zamboanga were not allowed to get on board the vessel as a matter of policy, Arguelles said. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Maguindanao skirmish mars 1st day of ceasefire

From page A1

ally implement this seriously, and they will be sincere with their pronouncement of a ceasefire," he said.

Kyamko said that if the situation continued, the government might consider opening the door to peace talks again.

But both Kyamko and Jaafar were apparently not aware that a clash took place in Maguindanao at about 9 a.m. Two rebels were killed in the encounter, which lasted about 45 minutes, between members of the 57th Infantry Battalion and about 50 MILF rebels in Barangay Pandan, South Upi.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the troops were on patrol when they clashed with the MILF group.

After yesterday's firefight, government troops said they recovered the bodies of two rebels, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and a homemade rifle from the scene.

Army Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga of the 6th Infantry Division told newsmen that his troops were actually on "pursuit operations."

"It is our duty to bring them to the bar of justice. All perpetrators of terrorist activities will be hunted down. It is our duty to hunt them down. Our punitive operations will continue because many committed atrocities in South Upi and Carmen, North Cotabato," Senga said.

Punitive actions

Before leaving for a state visit to South Korea yesterday morning, President Macapagal-Arroyo rejected the truce offer with finality.

In a statement, the President said military punitive actions would go on since the rebel group failed to prove its sincerity.

"The declaration of a temporary truce does not necessarily signal a sincere desire for peace," she said.

"It may be a ploy to allow a reconsolidation of troops and resources, to strengthen links with terrorists, to beef up plans of attack upon civilians."

She said it was "not enough for the MILF to simply silence its guns for a while."

"It must reveal where its forces are located, tell us the intentions of these forces, and show that they are not mixed with criminals or terrorists," she added.

Ms Macapagal vowed to see the military campaign through until the conflict was "decisively resolved."

"The people will rather see this problem decisively resolved than live in an atmosphere characterized by a fragile and uncertain peace,'" she said.

She called on MILF forces to surrender to escape punitive actions. "The Armed Forces will not fire upon MILF groups that come out in the open and peaceably return to the fold."

"But groups that remain underground and which have committed acts of terrorism will be interdicted and subjected to punitive actions because these remain a threat to the safety of civilian communities," she warned.

All fronts

But other military officers surveyed yesterday said the ceasefire had in fact taken effect in their areas.

There was no reported armed encounter in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-Sultan Kudarat-General Santos (Socsargen) area since Sunday night, Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of the 601st Army Brigade based in Malungon, Sarangani, told the INQUIRER.

The brigade's area of operation includes the provinces of Davao del Sur, Sarangani and South Cotabato, as well as the cities of General Santos, Digos and Koronadal.

In Sultan Kudarat, Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, 301st Army Brigade commander based in Tacurong City, also said there was no reported encounter between his troops and MILF rebels since Sunday night. The unit's area of operation includes one city and 26 municipalities in the province of Sultan Kudarat and the second district of Maguindanao.

"So far my area of operation is peaceful. There was no report of any armed encounter between my troops and the Moro rebels," Dema-ala told the INQUIRER.

But on Sunday night, on the eve of the ceasefire, a grenade exploded in Barangay Bagua in Cotabato City. No one was reported hurt.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied that his group was behind the blast. Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, Cotabato City police chief, also could not say if MILF rebels were behind the explosion.

Kabalu said the MILF's rank and file were taking the truce seriously.

"Some of our members are going back to their families," Kabalu said, adding that he was hopeful the ceasefire would lead to a final settlement. "A lot of people are clamoring for peace but the ball now is in the government's hands."

Prior attacks

To parry criticism about attacks it had launched prior to the ceasefire, Kabalu said rebel offensives against military targets prior to the effectivity date were legitimate actions.

But the MILF vice chair for military affairs, Ebrahim Murad, apologized for the incidents where civilians were caught in the crossfire.

"We are deeply sorry for these untoward incidents that affected some civilian lives," Murad said.

He assured Mindanao residents again that from June 2 until the 11th, MILF forces would not attack. "But if they are attacked, naturally, they will fight back," he said.

The military still has its doubts. Kyamko even urged MILF chair Salamat Hashim to "get out [of hiding] and restate his order of a ceasefire to his followers, so that his followers will hear more about the ceasefire."

He also insisted that the President's order of punitive actions against the MILF members who have committed atrocities against civilians has not been lifted.

In Koronadal, the local government units in coordination with various religious groups staged a multisectoral rally for peace yesterday afternoon.

Sr. Susan Bolanio, chair of the Diocese of Marbel's Justice and Peace Desk, told the INQUIRER that more than 5,000 participants showed up during the rally. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Martin Marfil; AP, AFP, Reuters*

S. Korea donates fighter jets to RP

From page A1

$356 million in military aid from Washington, most of which will be poured into Mindanao.

Since 1998, the Philippines has received three F-5s from South Korea, according to Afable. The Philippines and South Korea have a memorandum of understanding on logistics and defense industry cooperation signed in 1994.

In her meeting with Roh, Ms Macapagal is expected to "reiterate the importance of and the necessity for a denuclearized Korean peninsula as an important contribution leading to peace and stability in the region," the briefing paper said.

She will also "state that the Philippines believes that the stability of the Korean peninsula is critical for the continued economic development of East Asia," it said.

Agreements

At least three government agreements are expected to be signed during her visit. These are the Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters Treaty, a $10-million grant for the putting up of an information technology training center in Luzon and a vocational center in Davao City, and an agreement on the commitment of Korean loans.

Business agreements expected to be signed are the following:

- A memorandum of agreement involving Korea Electric Power Corp. for the construction of a 100-MW coal-fired power plant in Antique to address the projected power deficiency on Panay Island.
- Another MOA on the joint venture between Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd. and Empire East Land Holdings Inc. for the development of a 78,384-square-meter property in Cainta, Rizal.
- Investment agreement between Tricom Co. Ltd. and Hacienda Gold and Country Club Resort Inc. for the development of a 234-hectare property within the Clark Special Economic Zone.
- A memorandum of understanding between PL Global Co. Ltd. and the Philippine National Oil Co.'s Energy Development Corp. to explore the benefits of developing power projects in Western Visayas.

"We can expect more South Korean investments to come," Juanito Jarasa, Philippine ambassador to South Korea, said.

The biggest Korean investment so far is the $200-million Ilijan power plant in Batangas, a build-operate-transfer project, according to Jarasa.

Trade between the two countries stands at $5 billion per year.

Ms Macapagal and Roh are set to hold talks at the Blue House, the presidential mansion here.

"They're going to discuss especially the situation in the Korean peninsula, probably the war on terrorism and, of course, the situation of Filipino workers," Jarasa said.

There are growing concerns, particularly by the United States and Japan, over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

US President George W. Bush has described Iraq, Iran and North Korea as comprising the "axis of evil." Thousands of American soldiers have been deployed for years to the peninsula's demilitarized zone.

Ms Macapagal will also discuss North Korea's nuclear and missile program with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on her working visit to Tokyo on June 4-6.

Before leaving Seoul tomorrow at the end of her state visit, Ms Macapagal will lay a wreath at the Korean War Memorial to the Philippine Armed Forces that fought in the Korean war 50 years ago.

The war saw Filipino soldiers like former President Fidel V. Ramos and the late Ambassador Nicanor Jimenez crossing the seas to fight North Korean aggression.

Ramos, then a freshly minted lieutenant from the United States Military Academy at West Point, rose to become Philippine president. Jimenez, who commanded the 14th "Avengers," one of the five combat battalions sent to the peninsula, served as Philippine ambassador to South Korea.

Peftok

Some 7,000 Filipino soldiers, collectively known as the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok), fought under the flag of the United Nations from 1950 to 1955. A total of 116 Filipino officers and men were killed in the conflict, while 300 others were wounded, according to Peftok accounts.

The last of the Filipino soldiers in the Korean war were led home in 1955 by then Lt. Gregorio Vigilar, who became public works secretary during the Ramos administration.

Jarasa noted that the friendship between the two nations has remained strong.

"The Philippines and South Korea are members of the coalition of the willing," he said.

He was referring to the US-led coalition that invaded Iraq on the claims that the Saddam Hussein regime was in possession of weapons of mass destruction and in league with international terrorists. Both claims, however, have yet to be proven by Washington.

Congress OKs bill banning smoking in public places

From page A1

three signed the committee report yesterday, while their 10 counterparts from the House were expected to sign it before the end of the day.

The report will be sent back to both chambers, and approved separately, before it is transmitted to Malacañang for signing by the President.

Flavier told reporters before the start of the session in the Senate that the committee had finished the draft of the act in a record-time of two hours.

He said that in five years' time, "all forms of media advertising will be banned." The ban will start with radio and television advertisements, then billboards, and finally print advertisements.

He pointed out that tobacco firms were supportive of the measure.

"Surprisingly, they are in agreement. They know that this is a health issue," said Flavier, who cited Phillip Morris for a self-imposed ban on radio and TV advertising.

The proposed act seeks to create an inter-agency council to be chaired by the trade and industry department, while the health department serves as vice chair. The council is expected to come up with the implementing rules and regulations of the proposed act.

"But what is important is that we have a strong law, which is consistent with the framework convention for tobacco control of the World Health Organization," he said.

Global treaty

The Department of Health, meanwhile, is mounting a strong campaign to ensure the ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a "global tobacco control treaty" drafted by 192 member-countries of the WHO.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said there was a pressing need to pass the treaty to regulate smoking and its harmful effects on people and the environment.

He cited health studies showing that the country lost up to P42 billion last year in medical expenses for smoking-related diseases and losses in productivity.

In a statement the WHO issued at the end of the May 21 assembly, it said the tobacco control treaty places the WHO "in position to reverse increasing trends of tobacco consumption, preventing millions of premature deaths every year."

"Although tobacco use may have been declining in some areas in recent decades, there is an alarming increase in tobacco use in developing countries," it said.

With a report from Armand N. Nocum

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'The audience wanted to hear about SC role in Edsa II'

By Philip C. Tubeza

ASSOCIATE Justice Artemio Panganiban intended his book to highlight reforms in the judiciary but it has become the center of a brewing controversy that might lead to the return to power of former President Joseph Estrada.

"Reforming the Judiciary," a 416-page book published in December 2002, also talks about other controversial Supreme Court decisions—like the constitutionality of the Plunder Law—but supporters of the former President are focusing on Panganiban's statements that allegedly proved there was a conspiracy to oust Estrada. The controversial lines came from the epilogue of an address Panganiban gave to a symposium sponsored by the University of Sto. Tomas Central Seminary on Feb. 19, 2002. His speech was included in the book and was set as a chapter "Saving the constitutional system."

"Before I end this piece, let me articulate my faith that Edsa II was indeed a confluence of events planned in heaven," Panganiban told the seminarians.

"I do not have the time to relate all these events. Let me just say frankly, I am still wondering up to now how I had summoned the courage to propose the oath-taking of Mrs. Arroyo even when she had not yet requested it, and even when President Estrada was still in Malacañang; and why Chief Justice Davide immediately agreed to it, even prior to consultation with the other justices," he said.

"The Chief Justice and I both knew that the Supreme Court was a passive institution and that, ordinarily, justices did not take part in political events. The Court's extraordinary action to resolve an extraordinary situation can only be explained as the work of the Holy Spirit on both of us and, in fact, on all the key players of Edsa II. It was the same Spirit that animated us to do what we did, not because of conventional human wisdom, but because of faith instilled by the Lord," Panganiban said.

He said he and Chief Justice Hilario Davide had the same habit of reading the Bible "as the source of God's daily instructions on how we should do our work."

"I take my bearings from the daily Mass readings. But in the case of Chief Justice Davide, he cuts the Bible and reflects on the page that opens," he said. "On that fateful morning of Jan. 20, he woke up as usual at 3:30 a.m., prayed, cut his Bible and reflected. On that morning, the Holy Book opened to Isaiah 62, which spoke of the 'Restoration of Zion,'" he said.

"As he prayed and meditated, he was struck by the unmistakable impression that he should act to restore Zion; that is, to bring normalcy to the country. Hence, when I called him up at 5:30 a.m. he was spiritually and psychologically ready for my then 'weird-sounding proposal,'" he said. "I concluded that the only way to avert violence, chaos and bloodshed and to save our democratic system from collapse was to have Mrs. Arroyo sworn in as President. After prayer and reflection, I summoned the courage to call up (Davide) at about 5:30 a.m. to explain my apprehensions. I proposed that, to save the Constitution, he should swear in GMA by 12 noon that day," he added. He said Davide immediately agreed to his proposal. The Chief Justice then asked Panganiban to announce over radio and television his intention to administer the oath to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said a justice heard the announcement and telephoned the Court questioning the proposal.

"So, the Chief Justice decided to call immediately all the members of the Court to an emergency session. After an animated discussion on the various constitutional aspects of the situation, all twelve justices present—three were out of town—eventually backed the announced swearing in, provided GMA submitted a formal written request for it. They even went to the Edsa Shrine to witness the oath-taking ceremony," he said.

The book's preceding chapter said a Ching Vargas, a staff member of Mrs. Arroyo, fetched the justices.

Davide wrote the book's foreword.

Erap allies …

From page A1

a group of conspirators. The book was published in December 2002.

The Estrada lawyer noted that Panganiban said in the book that Davide had resorted to passages from the Bible in deciding the fate of Estrada. *(See story on A1)*

The complaint said Davide and Panganiban violated the constitutional principle of separation of State and Church when they relied on their interpretations of the Bible passages in deciding to let Ms Macapagal take her oath of office as president.

At an impromptu press conference, Bellosillo, acting chief justice, said he did not consider the impeachment complaint "serious."

"As far as we know, we have not done anything wrong and as I have said, this question has been settled a long time ago," he said.

Bellosillo defended the court's decision to legitimize the Macapagal administration. "Well, if our judgement has become final, that is final and we can't reopen that. I think the impeachment is another thing," he said. "If we did wrong, then maybe we can be impeached although I don't think that we did wrong in that case."

He said that what was written in the book was Panganiban's own opinion about what happened during Edsa II. "How can I be bound by Justice Panganiban's pronouncements?" he said. "We have our our own opinions here."

Bellosillo defended the justices' decision to go to the Edsa Shrine to watch Ms Macapagal's oath-taking. "Was that not a historical event that each one is entitled to witness? I think it was. Everybody was free to go to Edsa and witness the occasion," he said.

While Carpio and Corona only became justices after Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency, they were included in the suit because the two were among the plotters in the "conspiracy" to bring down Estrada, Saguisag said.

"Justices Carpio and Corona may consider resigning even if they technically may not be impeached for transgressions committed before they quickly and shamelessly claimed their reward," the complaint said.

In condemning the justices, the complaint said: "The Supreme Court cannot be allowed to play God as the government's most dangerous branch by replacing ex-parte a duly elected President as a mere administrative matter."

At a news conference after he filed the complaint, Saguisag said "the justices should be the referees, but one ended up as captain ball, the other the point guard, while the rest were the cheering squad."

The complaint said that the justices violated the Constitution when they asked the then Vice President to write the high court a letter declaring Estrada "permanently disabled."

The justices betrayed the public trust when they decided that Estrada was indeed disabled without reflection and deliberation, according to the complaint.

The complaint also assailed the justices for going to Edsa to attend the oath-taking of Ms Macapagal in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which prohibits justices from participating in partisan political exercises.

For announcing that Ms Macapagal would be sworn in as acting president and later "pretending" that she was sworn in as permanent president, Davide was cited for committing a high crime.

Present Muklis, PNP urged

From page A1

bomber—Saifulla "Muklis" Yunos, who allegedly masterminded five simultaneous attacks in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000.

Yunos, alleged head of the Special Operations Group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was arrested on May 25 in Cagayan de Oro City and immediately brought to Manila.

"It's important that he [Yunos] surface so we can better help in the government's antiterrorism campaign," said Taha Basman, head of the Philippine Islamic Council and Muslim representative to the National Peace and Order Council.

Maharlika 26

Basman said presenting the suspected terrorist to the media would also dispel rumors swirling in the Muslim community that authorities again got the wrong guy.

Like what happened on May 27, 2000 when members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force swooped down on Maharlika Village in Taguig City, arrested 26 residents and tagged them as suspects in the bombing of SM Megamall that killed a janitor and wounded 17 others.

All but two of the so-called "Maharlika 26" were subsequently released—but not after Muslim leaders condemned the roundup, premature presentation of the suspects and reckless imputation of guilt on the hapless residents.

Now, however, Basman is pressing the PNP to present Yunos to the media. "Police don't have to reveal classified information about him," the Muslim leader said.

Nine days have passed since Yunos was arrested, together with Al Gabre Mahmud, an Egyptian cleric who is reportedly on an international terrorist watch list.

Up to now, the two suspects have not been shown to the public, a surprising departure from police practice.

"They've been subjected to thorough investigation and what we have now is the confirmation that indeed Mukhlis led the bombings [on Dec. 30, 2000]," PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said recently, without elaborating.

It wasn't clear if Ebdane's comments were based on a confession by Yunos, who was wearing bandages and a leg cast as a disguise when he was arrested.

Ebdane said Mahmud was being questioned regarding his possible links to terrorist groups abroad.

Rizal Day carnage

Yunos and several other conspirators have been charged with multiple murder for the Dec. 30, 2000 attacks. Five bombs went off within minutes of each other in different parts of Metro Manila, killing 22 people and wounding more than 100 others, most of them at a Light Rail Transit station.

A police intelligence dossier describes Yunos as "a fanatic of the extreme Islamic fundamentalist movement" who received training in explosives at an al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan at the height of the Soviet invasion.

The report said a fellow trainee, Indonesian Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, would later emerge as a key Jemaah Islamiah operative in Southeast Asia. Al-Ghozi was arrested in Manila in January 2002, pleaded guilty to explosives possession charges three months later, and was sentenced to 10-12 years in prison.

The Jemaah Islamiah has been linked to al-Qaida and blamed for last year's bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali that killed 202 people.

Al-Ghozi allegedly sought help from Yunos to procure five to seven tons of explosives for a Jemaah Islamiah plan to bomb the Israeli and US embassies and other Western targets in Singapore in 2001, according to another police intelligence report.

Al-Ghozi allegedly gave Yunos about 70 kg of explosives that were used in the December 2000 bombings, the report said.

State Prosecutor Nestor Lazaro said a former MILF rebel said he saw Yunos at the main MILF base, Camp Abubakar, on Mindanao several years ago.

There are also witnesses, including a passenger and a vendor, who both claimed to have seen Yunos leaving the LRT station moments before the blast, Lazaro said.

Even so, Basman can't help wondering: If the evidence against Yunos is strong, why doesn't the PNP present him to the media? *With a report from AP*

'Dodong'

From page A1

"These areas will experience stormy weather today and tomorrow. Coastal waters will be rough to very rough and dangerous to all types of seacraft," the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a statement.

"Residents along mountain slopes and low-lying areas are advised to remain alert for possible occurrence of landslides and flash floods" caused by storm-induced monsoon rains.

Storm Signal No. 2 is up over the Ilocos provinces, Apayao, Northern Cagayan, while Storm Signal No. 1 is in effect in La Union, Pangasinan, Kalinga, Abra and the rest of Cagayan.

At 2 p.m. yesterday, Dodong was estimated at 210 km west-northwest of Basco, Batanes and forecast to move northeast at 19 kph.

It will be 270 km north-northeast of Basco this morning and just to the southwest of Okinawa in southern Japan on Wednesday morning, Pagasa said.

Last week, tropical storm "Chedeng" (international name Linfa) cut across Central and Northern Luzon, leaving at least 34 people dead and flooding major towns and cities, including low-lying portions of Metro Manila and the Visayas. *Gerald G. Lacuarta and AFP*

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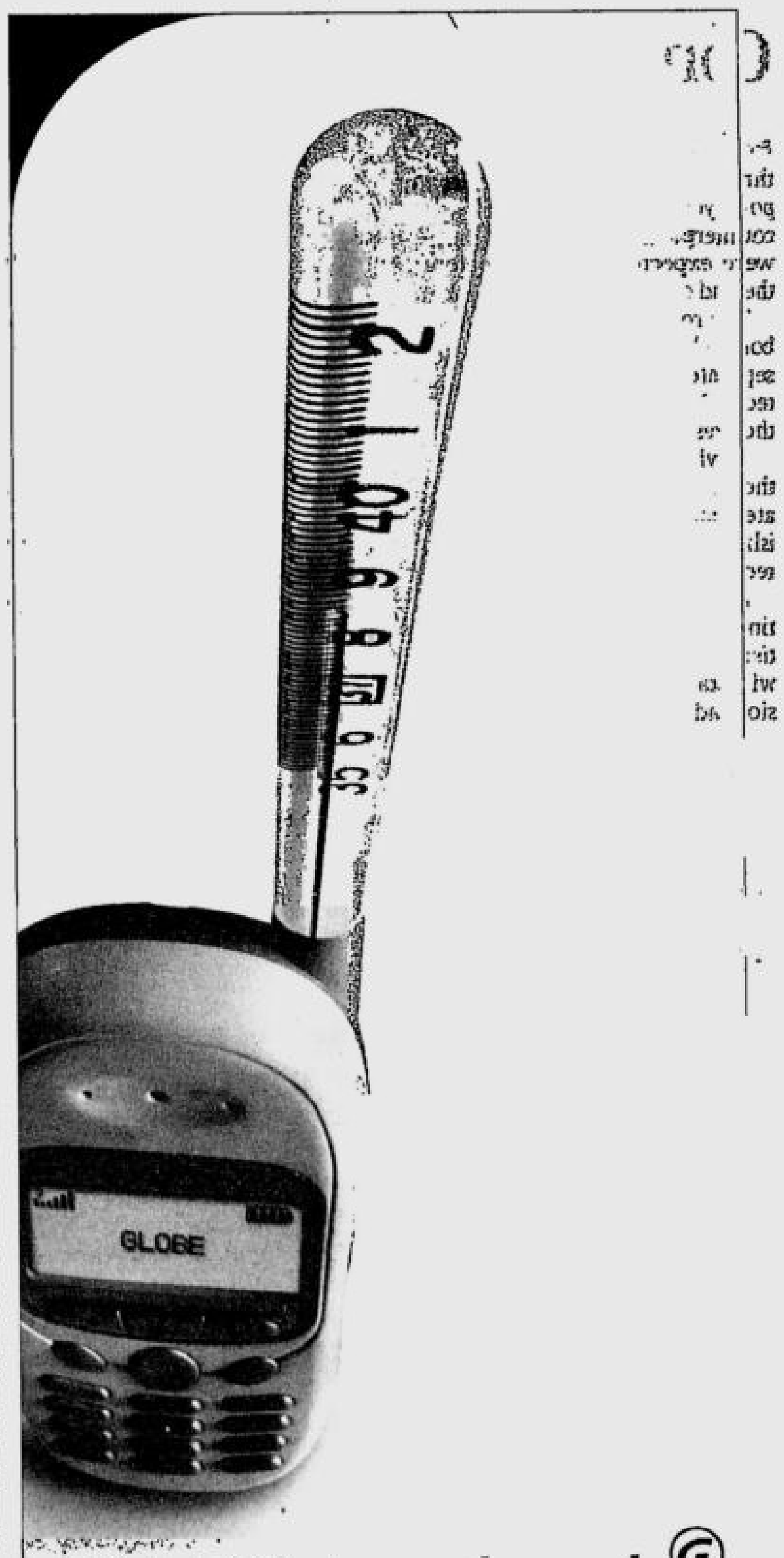

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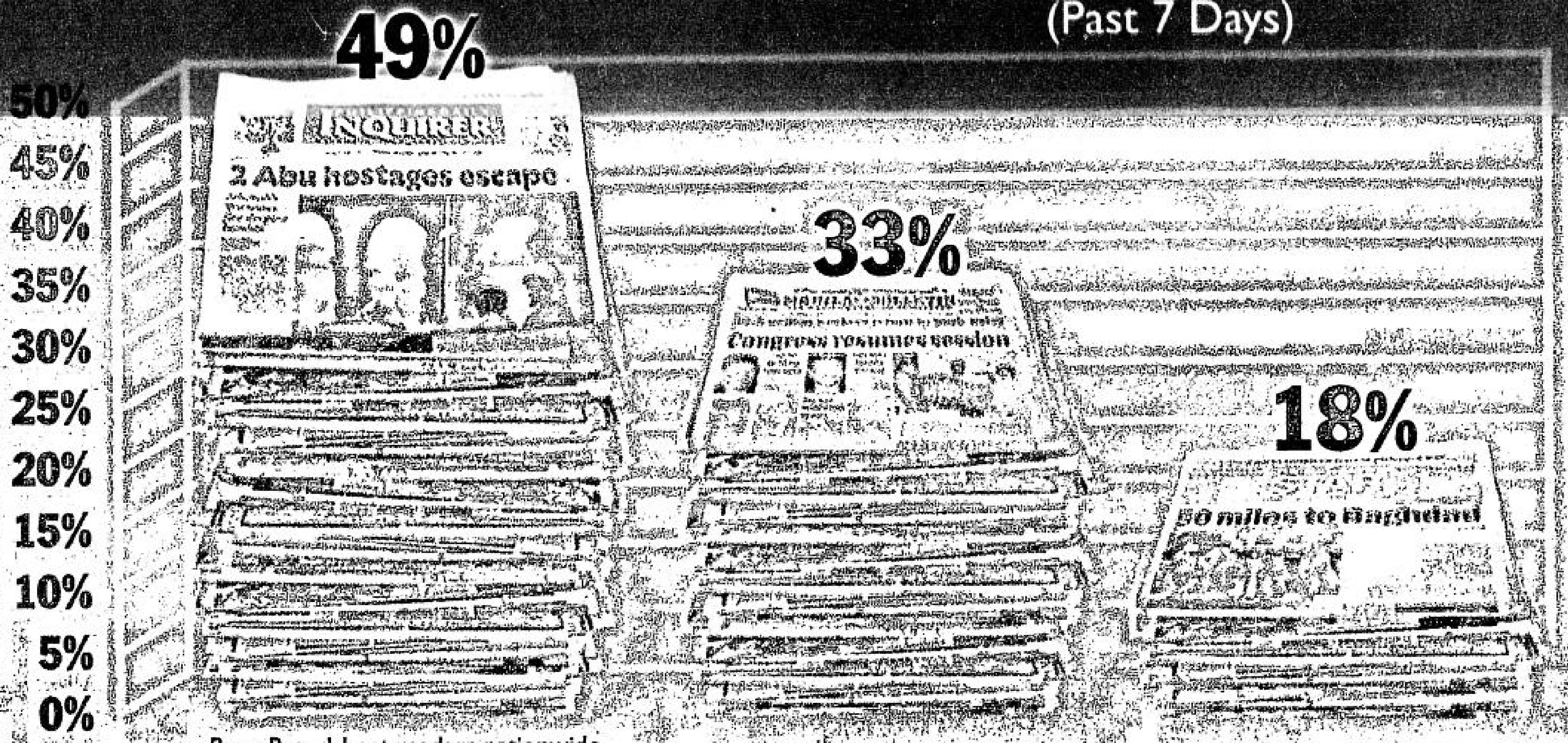

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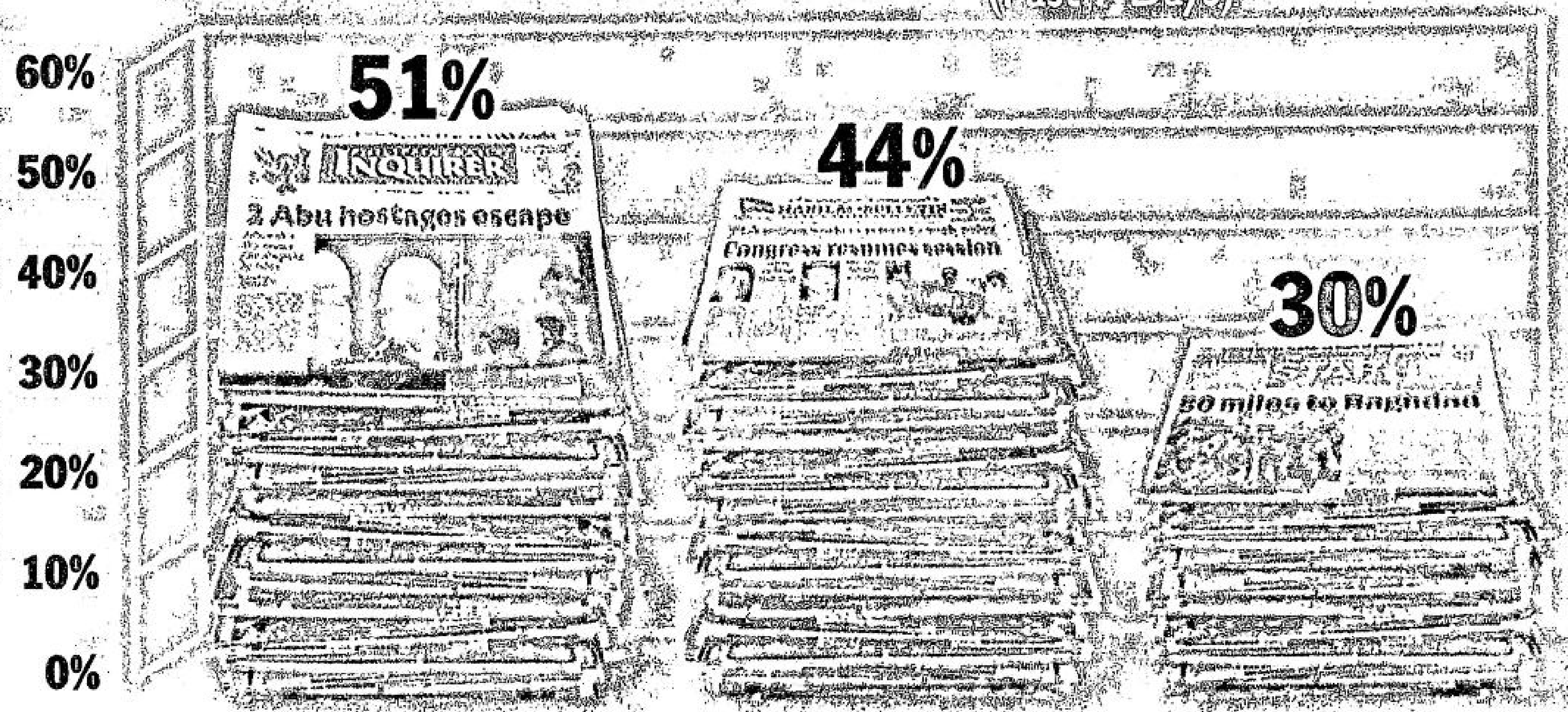

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Fake gin claims 2 more lives

Man goes blind, 2 others reported to be in critical condition

By Tina Santos

TWO MEN have died, one has gone blind, and two others have remained in critical condition after a drinking session in Malabon City last week.

Authorities are eyeing fake gin as the cause of death of carpenter James Rama, 40, and Renato Consuelo, 40.

Malabon police chief Supt. Pedro Ramos said both victims were residents of East Riverside in Barangay Potrero.

Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio yesterday said authorities are now investigating a factory and warehouse suspected of manufacturing and storing the fake liquor.

Police said Rama had died during treatment at the Manila Central University Hospital, about 24 hours after he and his companions finished drinking on May 26. Consuelo died on May 31 at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Rodrigo Caniega and Melchor Calderon have remained in serious condition in hospital.

David Suyon had been declared safe and was sent home by doctors after receiving treatment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila.

A sixth man, Arman Cutura, had gone blind, according to Emerito Dahiroc, a staff member of Barangay Potrero chair Eduardo Nolasco.

Dahiroc added Cutura had been sent home from the same hospital "because he allegedly had no money."

Police said the victims bought their gin from a sari-sari store in Barangay Potrero.

About seven bottles of gin were found at the scene and were taken to the Bureau of Food and Drugs for laboratory testing.

Vicencio said he has already ordered police to investigate the incident. He said the victims could have drank gin that was adulterated with toxic additives.

On May 18, fake gin also killed five people after a drinking session in the boundary of Caloocan and Malabon.

An unidentified woman reportedly offered the victims two bottles of gin.

The victims experienced chest pains, difficulty in breathing, stomach cramps and blurred vision after drinking the gin, investigation showed.

The latest victims in Malabon also displayed the same symptoms, authorities said.

Motorists blame PNCC for 43-hour traffic jam

LAWYER Arlene Mendoza got up early on Saturday and immediately packed her things to attend a friend's birthday party in Calamba, some 50 kilometers south of Manila.

She left her home on Ortigas Avenue in Greenhills at about 10 a.m. Saturday, hoping to reach her friend's house by noon. But a monstrous traffic jam in the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) caused by a wayward gas tanker carrying liquefied petroleum gas left her stranded on the road for almost 20 hours.

Mendoza never made it to her friend's birthday party. She reached Calamba at 3:30 a.m. Sunday, but decided to turn back and head for home.

Mendoza and thousands of stranded motorists blamed the PNCC for the 43-hour traffic at the expressway.

She criticized officials of the Philippine National Construction Corp. for not informing motorists to take an alternate route.

"How come PNCC officials didn't bother to tell the public (about the traffic) at SLEX?" she asked.

PNCC radioman Fred Villa said both SLEX lanes were temporarily closed at about 2 p.m. on Saturday to give way to the cranes that would cart off the gas trailer, which plummeted into the slum area beneath the bridge in Barangay Sto. Tomas in this town, leaving a person dead and 11 others injured.

PNCC supervisor Sofronio Salvanera said they opened the lanes six hours later. They then ordered a full stop to traffic at about 9 a.m., Sunday to continue retrieval operations. He said they successfully cleared the area an hour later.

A motorist, who identified himself as a Manila policeman, walked up to this reporter and said: "These PNCC officials are only good at collecting high toll fees."

Another exasperated commuter said SLEX officials seemed to be indecisive in dealing with major accidents.

But Salvanera said they had taken the right steps and claimed they were on top of things when the accident happened. He said bigger troubles might have resulted if they had acted haphazardly. *Marlon Ramos, Southern Luzon Bureau*

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

CRUSHED
Strings of yellow tape warn people against coming too close to a spot where a shanty used to stand along the highway in Teresa, Rizal. A 10-wheeler truck accidentally fell off the road Sunday and landed on the shanty, instantly killing a father and his daughter who were then asleep inside.
RODEL RAMOS, CONTRIBUTOR

Wanted Laguna mayor surfaces

By TJ Burgonio

MURDER suspect Mayor Reynato Macalalag of Lumban, Laguna, yesterday surfaced and announced he was ready to face the charges against him.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, police director for Region 4-A, ordered the police chief of Lumban to pick up Macalalag somewhere in Manila at around 9 a.m. after the mayor agreed to yield to authorities.

The mayor was then taken to the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response headquarters in Camp Crame, according to Caringal.

"(Macalalag) said he would face the charges in court and that he had not gone into hiding," Caringal said in an interview.

Local Government Secretary Joey Lina and Camp Crame-based police officials however declined to confirm or deny reports that the mayor had been taken into custody.

"He has sent surrender feelers," Lina told reporters as he brushed off speculation that he had coddled Macalalag.

Carina Agarao, president of the Crusade Against Violence, welcomed the news on Macalalag.

She declared in an interview that Macalalag is "guilty as hell."

"If we go by evidence, I'm sure we'll get a conviction," Agarao said.

Agarao voiced hopes that the case would be handled by an "honest judge."

The mayor is also accused of masterminding the murder of lawyer Clarence Agarao, Carina's husband, on April 30, 1996.

Macalalag was charged with the murder of Alberto Quiatzon, a barangay *tanod* who refused to join the mayor's group. Sonny Cacalda, an aide of the mayor, allegedly shot the victim on Nov. 20, 1995.

Just before he died, Quiatzon told witnesses that he was kneeling in front of the mayor when Cacalda shot him.

In September 2000, Manila Judge Teresa Soriaso allowed Macalalag to post bail of P200,000 and acquitted eight other accused.

Last month, Manila Judge Perfecto Laguio cancelled the bail and ordered Macalalag's arrest. *With a report from Marlon Ramos, Southern Luzon Bu reau*

Cabbie says PNG envoy attacked him

By Leila Salaverria

TAXI driver Randy Rones Nievera, 33, yesterday accused the ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the Philippines of giving him a "head butt" after they got into an argument over cab fare.

According to the physical injuries complaint Nievera filed with the Pasay City police, Ambassador Graham John Ainui approached the driver outside the Vision Nightclub on Roxas Boulevard at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday to settle the fare of a woman passenger who appeared to be a friend of the ambassador.

Ainui asked Nievera how much was the fare, and the driver said P2,500. Ainui offered the driver $20 (P1,065) but Nievera refused. This led to an argument, during which the ambassador allegedly gave Nievera a head butt on the nose, police said.

Ainui then asked his driver Benigno Cuenca to drive him to the embassy in his Mercedes Benz (CM-1000). Cuenca later told police that when he and Ainui were driving on Edsa, several taxis led by Nievera's blocked their way.

When the police arrived, Ainui introduced himself as an ambassador, invoked diplomatic immunity and asked to be escorted to his Dasmariñas Village home.

When asked to comment, Papua New Guinea Deputy Ambassador Dominic Ampa'oi said that they have asked Nievera to settle the dispute amicably.

The police consider the case closed and the charges against Ainui dropped.

Bush to GMA: Please run in 2004

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M BACK from a two-week vacation and fully recharged.

If you work very hard you should take a two-week vacation at least once a year to recharge your batteries.

If you love your job as I do mine, you'll miss your work a week into your vacation. The second week of vacation drags on. You will become so bored you will want to go back to work.

And when you get back to work you feel like a newly overhauled car.

* * *

The first week of my vacation was spent going with President Macapagal-Arroyo on her state visit to the US.

I was not a member of the presidential party. Neither was I there to cover the visit as a journalist. I was just an onlooker, what they call in Tagalog an *"asungot."*

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo invited me to join the presidential party as his personal guest after he learned I was going to the United States to visit my Mom in California. He said I could proceed to California after the state visit.

* * *

I went with the presidential party from Los Angeles, the first stopover, then to Washington D.C. and finally to New York, where the President met with some business leaders and was awarded an honorary degree at Fordham University.

Separating from the presidential party in New York, I flew to San Francisco.

I met with the President's husband in San Francisco, California after a few days. GMA had by then left for Manila, but Mike Arroyo stayed behind apparently to take a respite from the exhausting trip.

* * *

Alone in San Francisco, the Philippines' First Gentleman became an ordinary tourist.

Although a dignitary of his stature is given security by the Secret Service on a visit to the US, Mike Arroyo shunned it, saying he's not the President of the Philippines.

And guess where the President's husband stayed after GMA had left? In a two-star hotel in downtown San Francisco!

"*Masarap dito, Mon, dahil Pinoy ang mga bellboys at ang bartender ay kaibigan ko,*" said Arroyo.

Compare Mike Arroyo to Imelda Marcos, who stayed in luxury hotels in her time, and you'll see the big difference.

* * *

Although I didn't cover GMA's state visit, I gathered some insights about the First Couple, GMA especially.

GMA always gets piqued when she's asked by reporters whether she will run in 2004 because of her successful sojourn to the United States.

That's because she doesn't want political motives imputed to her accomplishments, the US visit included. Imputations by her critics of political posturings with a view to 2004 made her renounce her candidacy.

* * *

But I think—and this is my personal opinion—GMA will be forced to run under pressure from US President George Bush.

Bush and Arroyo hit it off very well on her visit to Washington. Bush was so impressed by her intelligence he wants her to be his counterpart in this part of the world.

When Bush and First Lady Laura Bush escorted GMA and Mike to their limousine after the dinner, Bush's parting words to the Philippine president were: "Madame President, politicians and women are entitled to change their minds."

It was in reference to her announcement that she would not run in 2004.

* * *

Bush is running in 2004. He has an edge over his opponent because of the US victory in Iraq. He just has to do something about the recession in his country that caused the defeat of his father, George Bush Sr. by Bill Clinton.

If Bush wins and GMA runs and also wins, the two will have an excellent partnership in fighting terrorism in this part of the world.

* * *

I'm sure the person who gave me the information about Bush's parting words to GMA will have a severe tongue-lashing from the President.

I now ask forgiveness from my source.

I did this because I wanted to show that we need GMA as president beyond 2004.

With GMA at the helm after 2004 and Bush getting reelected, the country will get all the material, financial and moral support from the United States to lick the problems of insurgency and terrorism.

SANTIAGO

Actor charged with robbery

By Amy Remo

ROBBERY charges yesterday were filed against action star Raymart Santiago for forcing the driver of a vehicle that hit his Expedition to hand over his professional driver's license which had P1,500 enclosed in it.

"*Hindi ko alam na ganon pala siya* (Santiago), *idol ko pa naman 'yan*,(I didn't know he could behave that badly. He is even my idol)," said complainant Frederick Lorenzana of Novaliches, Quezon City.

In an affidavit filed before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, Lorenzana said the actor not only punched and cursed him, he also took the P1,500 cash enclosed in his driver's license. Lorenzana said the money was meant for his child's enrollment.

Lorenzana said that at 11:45 p.m. on May 13, he hit Santiago's Expedition with the truck he was driving at the intersection of Miriam College and Katipunan Avenue in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Lorenzana claimed that the actor got off his Expedition and punched him several times.

Attached with Lorenzana's affidavit is a medical certificate that detailed the blows he suffered.

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Jaworski slams PBA on drug tests

By Marc Anthony Reyes

INSTEAD of openly vouching for the infallibility of its drug testing procedure, the PBA must lend an ear to the pleas of players the league has banned for alleged substance abuse, Sen. Robert Jaworski demanded yesterday.

Jaworski, in criticizing the PBA practice of outrightly making public the name of players who were found positive for banned substance, said these athletes must not be treated as outcasts but as "family members."

"I don't want to say that the PBA commissioner (Noli Eala) or the PBA itself is at fault," Jaworski told the INQUIRER. "But there is a need to have a system in handling this very delicate issue."

He decried the fact that the players didn't have much time to react before the information was revealed to the public, which in the process places the burden of proof on the players, who would otherwise dispute the findings.

"It's not a remedy to cover it up (drug findings)," said Jaworski. "But at least we can find a system wherein these players, who are all functional members of the society, won't be subjected to humiliation in front of the public."

The senator, who last Friday relived his heydays on the court by flinging a game-clinching three-pointer in the final seconds to lift Toyota over rival Crispa, said he wants to know if the drug testing procedure employed by the PBA is truly fool-proof.

Jaworski yesterday filed Senate Resolution No. 616 seeking a full-blown inquiry into the "ongoing drug problem" within PBA."

In filing the resolution, Jaworski asked his colleagues to authorize the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports to conduct a formal inquiry into the extent of drug use among PBA players.

The inquiry which, he said, would have the "end view of enacting remedial measures to address the issue at hand."

In his one-page resolution, Jaworski explained that the inquiry was imperative after some team officials and players "have questioned the procedures and results of the drug tests."

He said that these officials had raised the possibility of errors in the drug testing process and the standards used by the PBA and the Department of Health (DOH), which randomly conducted the testing.

Jaworski pointed out that the Games and Amusement Board had itself charged the PBA for being "remiss in its duties," because of the manner it had dealt with suspected drug offenders.

He explained that the league

JAWORSKI/ A21

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Sorenstam returns to LPGA in triumph /A22

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Rodrigo stops Gorres, captures RP crown /A21

Task force formed; drug questions persist

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association Board of Governors yesterday reiterated its unwavering support for the league's drug-testing program and formed a six-man task force to further enhance the system.

PBA Chair Jun Cabalan said the task force would zero in on discovering new areas of improvement in the current drug program, which has been questioned by some of the teams whose players failed the tests.

Except for FedEx governor Lito Alvarez, the board came in full force and threw its full backing to PBA Commissioner Noli Eala amid contention that the drug-testing procedure could be flawed.

"If there were questions that led to the thinking that we have wavered in our drive to support this program, these matters should be put to rest," said Cabalan.

Instead of finding fault on the procedure, the board has installed representatives from Alaska, Shell, Talk N Text, Batang Red Bull, PBA technical chief Perry Martinez, league physician Ben Salud to find ways and means to improve the program.

FedEx team owner Bert Lina threw his all-out support for the program but batted for the review of the testing procedure.

"There is no question about the PBA's drug policy. I know every team in the league wants the drug menace eradicated," Lina said."But the mere fact that some quarters are questioning the way the tests are handled and announced, means there are loopholes in the procedures," he added.

The board approval on the current setup also put to rest the clamor of Batang Red Bull, whose governor Manny Mendoza openly accepted the verdict of the board.

Red Bull management offered the possibility of human error on the conduct of the tests and vowed to ask for a review of the procedure two days after Davonn Harp tested positive for prohibited drugs.

Eala also reiterated that the players are entitled to make an appeal but would have to use the same urine sample for re-testing.

Harp, along with Jun Limpot of Barangay Ginebra, Talk N Text's Long David and Noli Locsin, Dorian Peña of San Miguel and Ryan Bernardo of FedEx, have until Friday to make an appeal by way of a re-test.

"In a re-test, the player may choose a laboratory accredited by the Department of Health but must be monitored by DOH, PNP and PBA representatives," said Eala.

"However, it has to be the same urine sample because the substances which could be found on the specimen can easily wear off in a matter of two to three days," added Eala.

Eala stressed the only thing that could overturn the indefinite suspension of the alleged offenders was a re-test that has a negative diagnosis.

"If the results were negative, I will immediately overturn the decision without even batting an eyelash," said Eala.

Hapee seeks finals

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Viva vs John-O
4 p.m.—Hapee vs Montaña

HAPEE Toothpaste tries to formalize its entry to the finals when it battles Montaña Jewel today at the end of the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

With its leading 4-1 win-loss record, Hapee clinches the first title slot by avenging an earlier loss to Montaña in their 4 p.m. encounter.

Viva Mineral Water tries to seal at least a playoff for the second championship berth when it takes on winless John-O earlier at 2 p.m.

If they win, Hapee and Viva would finish 1-2 in the semis and go into a best-of-five series for the championship starting Thursday.

If Montaña repeats its victory over Hapee in their first meeting in the semifinals and Viva prevails over John-O, a three-way tie ensues among the Jewelers, Sparklers and Water Force at 4-2.

Dennis U. Eroa

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Russians take charge

Venus Williams, Capriati, Davenport ousted

PARIS—Venus Williams lost again in a Grand Slam tournament, only this time it wasn't against her sister.

The third-seeded Williams squandered an early lead and was beaten by 18-year-old Russian Vera Zvonareva 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the fourth round at the French Open.

Williams had been beaten by sister Serena in the past four major events, including last year at Roland Garros.

It was a tough day for top Americans, with Jennifer Capriati and a hobbled Lindsay Davenport both losing as well.

No. 7-seeded Capriati, the 2001 champion, also was upset by a Russian. Nadia Petrova, ranked 76th, won 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, then celebrated by pounding her chest, punching the air and blowing a kiss to the crowd.

Zvonareva was not quite so expressive. When Williams yanked a backhand wide on match point, the Russian teenager simply walked to the net, where she was greeted with a handshake and smile from her opponent.

"Maybe I'm just too tired to be excited," Zvonareva said. "You can win if you go to the court and believe it."

The Moscow native has climbed from 371st in the rankings at the beginning of last year to 21st entering the French Open.

Sister Serena emerged unscathed from a first-set scare and a nasty spill to beat Ai Sugiyama 7-5, 6-3. The match was much more arduous than Serena's 6-0, 6-0 victory over Barbara Schett in the previous round.

No. 6-seeded Davenport was forced to quit, aggravating a strained toe on her left foot that has bothered her for about a month. She was trailing No. 24 Conchita Martinez 6-4, 2-0.

Andre Agassi advanced by beating Flavio Saretta 6-2, 6-1, 7-5.

Venus Williams entered the match well aware of Zvonareva, who pushed Serena Williams to three sets in the fourth round at Roland Garros last year.

Serena Williams was down a service break twice in the first set against Sugiyama but rallied from a 4-2 deficit. She escaped injury in the sixth game when she slipped on the clay chasing a shot and tumbled into the net, landing hard on her left side.

The victory was the 32nd in a row in Grand Slam events for Williams, who has beaten sister Venus in the past four major finals. Her opponent Tuesday will be France's Amelie Mauresmo, who upset Williams in the Rome semifinal May 17.

Mauresmo, seeded fifth, advanced by beating Magui Serna 6-1, 6-2 but knows she'll have her hands full against Williams.

Martinez will next face No. 2 Kim Clijsters, who played 24 minutes before winning a game, then raced past No. 15 Magdalena Maleeva 0-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Chanda Rubin reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros for the third time, beating Petra Mandula 4-6, 6-2, 7-5. The American next plays No. 4 Justine Henin-Hardenne, who celebrated her 21st birthday by beating No. 19 Patty Schnyder 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

In the final third-round match, three-time champion Gustavo Kuerten beat No. 21 Gaston Gaudio 7-6 (1), 7-5, 5-7, 6-3. Play was suspended midway through the third set Saturday because of darkness. *AP*

PETROVA returns a shot to Capriati. AP

ZVONAREVA eyes the ball as she serves against Venus Williams. REUTERS

Andre sharpens up, zeroes in on 3rd Slam

PARIS—With one title, two lost finals, 51 wins and 15 visits to Roland Garros in his sparkling career, Andre Agassi is sharpening up for another French Open triumph after Sunday reaching the quarterfinals for the third straight year and ninth overall.

As any local would gladly tell him, wine matures well with age–and Agassi is proving himself to be the best vintage on the men's circuit as at 33 he motors back toward the top world ranking following the demise of Aussie battler Lleyton Hewitt.

Agassi, whose Australian Open title in January was his eighth Grand Slam crown, briefly wrested back top spot from Hewitt earlier in the year and can now do so again if he keeps up the form that dispatched unseeded Brazilian Flavio Saretta 6-2, 6-1, 7-5 in 1 hour and 43 minutes.

Now he is looking to land his third Slam since his 30th birthday –and now that Hewitt has gone home there are few people who would bet against him repeating his 1999 triumph after he won the 998th match of his career. *AFP*

Live telecast

BEGINNING this week, Solar Sports will telecast the 2003 French Open live starting with the men's and women's quarterfinals matches today (Tuesday, June 3) until the finals on Saturday and Sunday.

The complete live telecast schedule: (June 3), men's and women's singles; quarterfinals at 10 p.m.; (June 4), men's and women's singles quarterfinals at 1 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.; (June 5), women's singles semifinals at 9 p.m. and again at 12 midnight; (June 6), men's singles semifinals at 7 p.m.; (June 7) women's singles finals at 10 p.m. and again at 12 midnight; (June 8), men's singles finals at 9 p.m.

Clemens still a win short of 300

DETROIT—Roger Clemens remained one victory short of career win No. 300 when the Detroit Tigers rallied from a six-run deficit Sunday to spoil history.

The Yankees salvaged something, however, as Alfonso Soriano and Jorge Posada homered off Steve Sparks (0-2) in the 17th inning to give New York a 10-9 win.

"You've got a 7-1 lead and Roger on the hill, that's icing on the cake," teammate David Wells said. "It's just a shame because we thought it was in the bag."

Clemens and the Yankees' defense unraveled in the fifth inning, allowing the Tigers to score five runs. He came out after six and watched helplessly as Detroit tied it at 8-8 in the seventh inning.

Clemens, who lost to Boston on May 26 in his first crack at No. 300, finished with a no-decision before a disappointed Comerica Park-record crowd of 44,095.

"We're glad that Roger is going to have to do it somewhere else," Tigers manager Alan Trammell said.

Clemens' chase will continue next weekend in Chicago. The six-time Cy Young winner is scheduled to start Saturday at Wrigley Field against Cubs ace Kerry Wood, who struck out 20 batters in 1998 to tie the nine-inning record set twice by Clemens.

The Yankees haven't played at Wrigley since the 1938 World Series, and Clemens has never pitched in a game inside the ballpark's ivy-covered walls. That means his friends and family will be trying to secure some tough tickets.

"The family doesn't get together too often on the road, so this is nice for me," said Clemens, who had 60 family members and friends on hand in Detroit. "And they're getting to see some different ballparks."

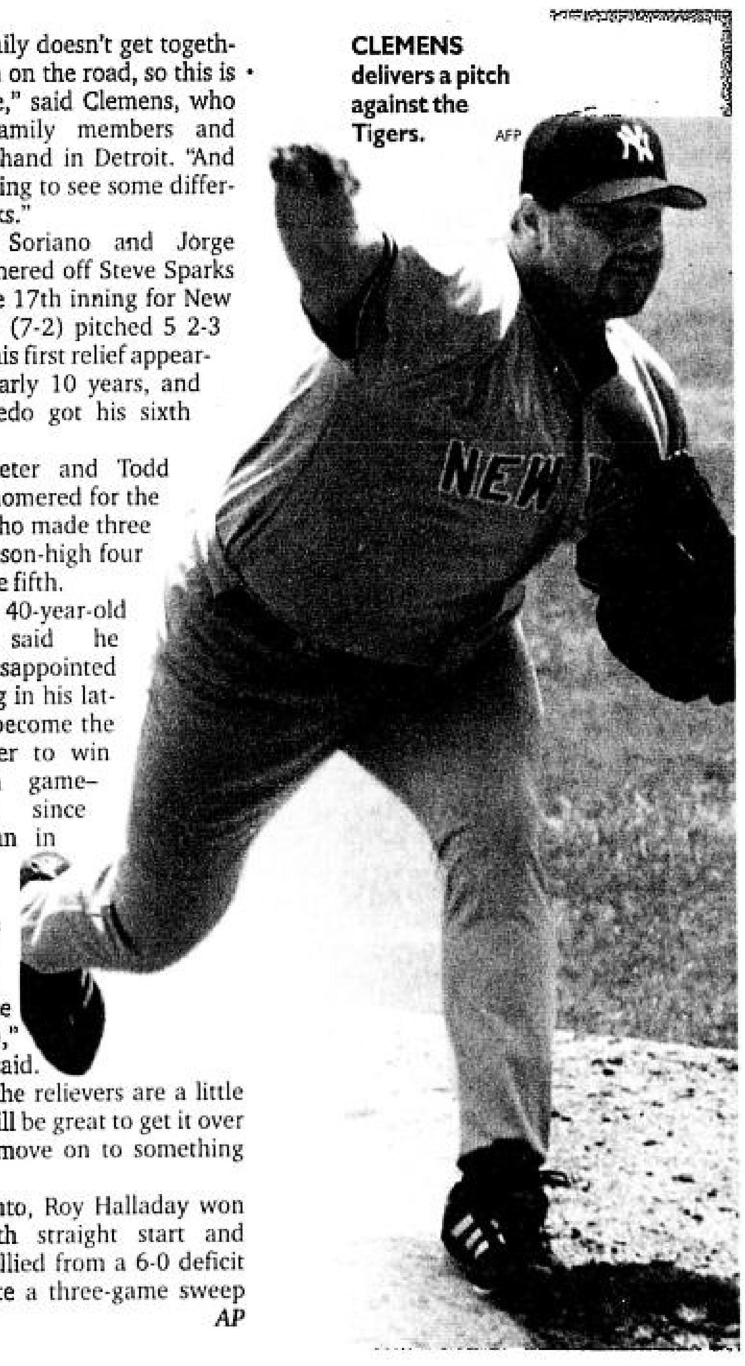
Alfonso Soriano and Jorge Posada homered off Steve Sparks (0-2) in the 17th inning for New York. Wells (7-2) pitched 5 2-3 innings in his first relief appearance in nearly 10 years, and Juan Acevedo got his sixth save.

Derek Jeter and Todd Zeile also homered for the Yankees, who made three of their season-high four errors in the fifth.

Still, the 40-year-old Clemens said he wasn't disappointed after failing in his latest bid to become the 21st pitcher to win his 300th game–and first since Nolan Ryan in 1990.

"There are some guys disappointed inside (the clubhouse)," Clemens said. "Some of the relievers are a little upset. It will be great to get it over with and move on to something else."

In Toronto, Roy Halladay won his seventh straight start and Toronto rallied from a 6-0 deficit to complete a three-game sweep of Boston. *AP*



CLEMENS delivers a pitch against the Tigers. AFP

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Asahi Ryokuken International Championship; 3 p.m. (*r*); ESPN - The real battle begins as third round action goes underway.

BASKETBALL: 1987 LA Lakers - Drive for Five; 7:30 p.m. (r); ESPN - Take a look back at how Magic, Kareem and Big Game James piloted the Lakers to their fifth title in franchise history.

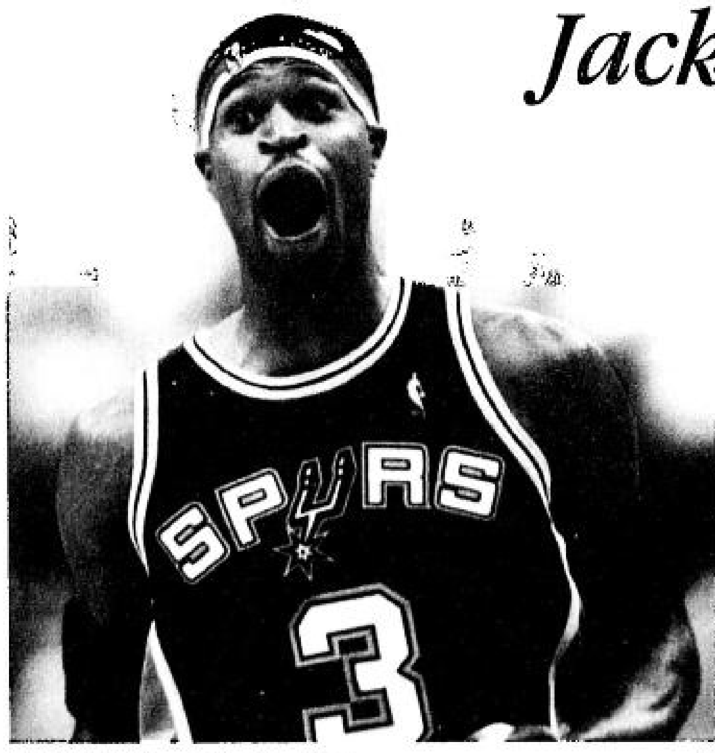
BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; ESPN - Steve Davis hopes that Lady Luck smiles on him as he faces tough opponents in Earl Strickland and Efren "Bata" Reyes.

2002 Women's Tournament of Champions; 5 p.m. (r); ESPN - The ladies prove that they can handle a long stick as they reach the semifinal stage of this event.

RUNNING: Boston Marathon 2003; 1 p.m. (r); Star Sports - See Kenyan runners pound the pavement of Heartbreak Hill and dominate another race.

CYCLING: Tour of Flanders 2003; 10 a.m. (r); Star Sports - The terrors on two wheels strut their stuff in preparation for the Tour de France.

Jackson saga colorful subplot to finals



JACKSON: Respect for the Nets. AP

SAN ANTONIO—One thing Stephen Jackson can do as well as shoot a basketball is tell tales about a career that took him around the globe before he landed in both New Jersey and San Antonio.

Stories about patrons checking their bullets at a restaurant in Santo Domingo, rain falling inside a partially covered arena in Caracas, a teammate walking onto the court in Brisbane with both middle fingers extended toward the crowd.

Jackson is the only player in the NBA Finals who spent time with both the Nets and Spurs. He maintains a friendship with Kenyon Martin after spending their rookie season together, but also has a damaged relationship with his former coach, Byron Scott.

The saga surrounding Jackson, the Spurs' starting shooting guard, will provide a colorful subplot when the best-of-seven finals begin Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila).

"I'm kind of glad they didn't re-sign me," Jackson said Sunday. "I have a lot of respect for that team, but when someone says something about me I never forget."

Jackson was miffed when he traveled to New Jersey with the Spurs last season and was told that Scott said he wouldn't even be in the rotation if he had stayed with the Nets.

Told Sunday that Scott had said he was happy for him to have made it to the finals, Jackson was disbelieving.

"Byron, I don't know if he sincerely means that," Jackson said.

A one-season stint with the Nets was one of many stops the 25-year-old made after becoming a professional vagabond at an early age.

After low SAT scores made him ineligible to play at the University of Arizona, where he was part of the same recruiting class with Sacramento's Mike Bibby, Jackson spanned the globe before finally toning down his lifestyle and throttling down his game. *AP*

Silas is new Cavs coach

SAN ANTONIO—Paul Silas will be the new coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers after reaching agreement with the team on a long-term contract, The Associated Press learned Sunday.

The deal was being finalized Sunday, according to two sources with knowledge of the talks who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Brown to Pistons

Meanwhile, Larry Brown will be introduced as the coach of the Detroit Pistons at a news conference Monday, a source within the league said.

Brown reached an agreement on a long-term deal to succeed fired coach Rick Carlisle, the source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on Saturday. *AP*

Rodrigo stops Gorres, captures RP fly crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

UNHERALDED Edgar Rodrigo put a savage end to Z Gorres' short reign as RP flyweight boxing champion by stopping the youthful Cebuano sensation in the ninth round at the Makati Coliseum Sunday night.

On a festive night set for his coming out party, Gorres, intimidated and over-cautious, instead got schooled in nightmarish fashion before referee Ferdie Estrella reluctantly stepped in to stop the bout.

Gorres, undefeated in 13 previous pro fights, first went down in the sixth round, following a thunderous right straight to the jaw. He got up and weathered the onslaught but he was by then already glassy-eyed.

Rodrigo, a 22-year-old native of General Santos City, went for the kill in the seventh but failed to nail down the groggy Gorres who desperately tried to move around and clinch.

By the 8th round, a visibly spent Gorres tried to backpedal to avoid further punishment but the bull-strong Rodrigo dug into the body and connected to the face to again knock down Gorres, who had a hard time getting up.

Gorres went down a second time in the 8th round but referee Estrella refused to step in although the Cebuano appeared helpless and totally spent.

Then in the ninth, Rodrigo, sensing imminent victory, rained more lethal blows, thereby forcing the referee to finally step and save Gorres who was standing at mid-ring both glassy eyed and senseless.

It was a stunning reversal as Gorres, who had been lined up to train in the California gym of the renowned Freddie Roach, was dominated, mauled and stopped by a challenger who was supposedly not in his ranks.

The main event in the Makati Day celebration shaped up early into a mismatch as Gorres, using his trademark jab-straight combinations, seldom landed on the visibly fit and ready Rodrigo.

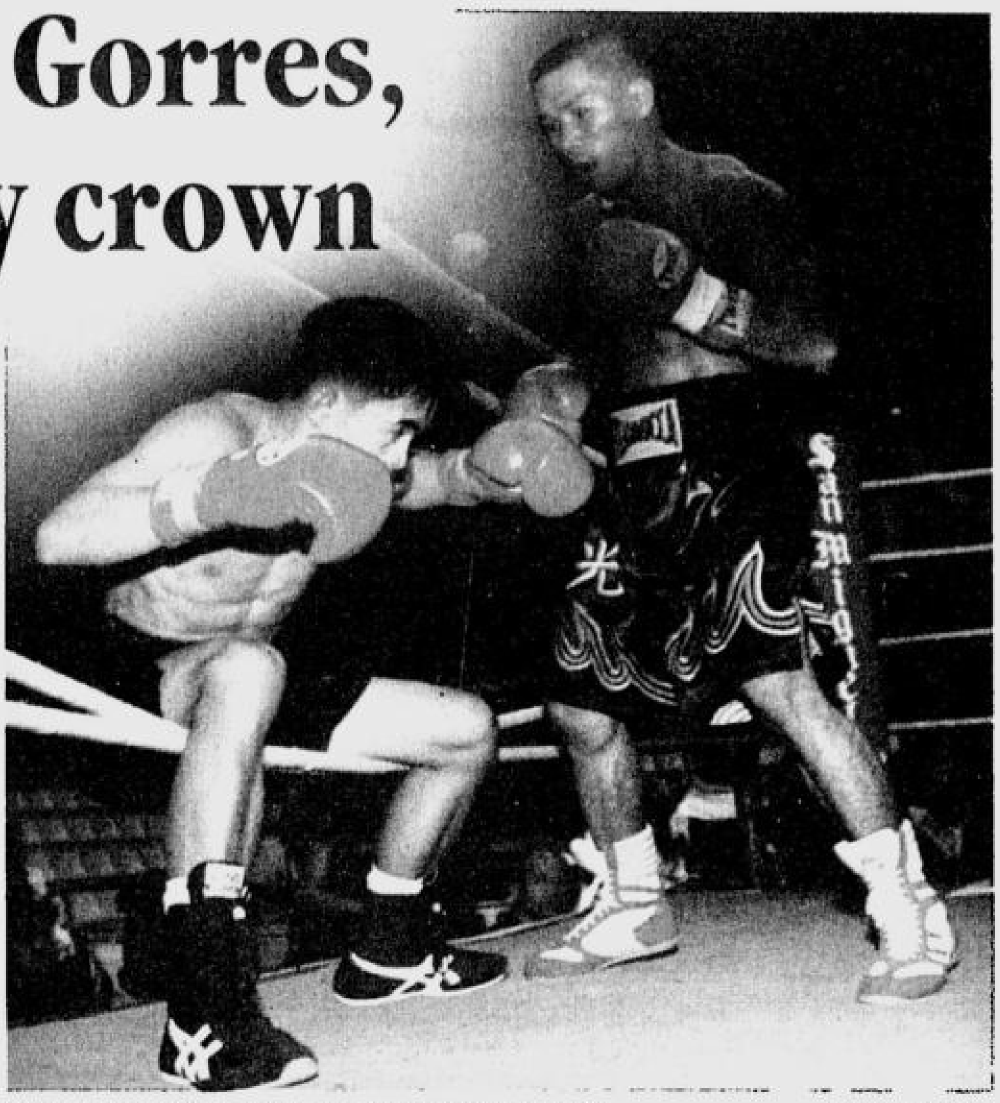
Gorres tried to move around, opting to use his superior lateral skills to keep Rodrigo at bay. However, in the second frame, Rodrigo connected with a countering right straight that to stopped Gorres on his tracks.

Gorres was a shaken fighter from thereon.

Sportsman Tony Aldeguer, who flew in to watch his protege, offered no excuses and gave credit to Rodrigo for the big win.

Visibly crestfallen, Aldeguer then advised Gorres to re-evaluate his future.

Meanwhile, lawyer Rudy Salud, who manages Gorres in a partnership with Aldeguer, said he would wait for Gorres' decision.



RODRIGO (right) sends Gorres reeling against the ropes. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Jaworski . . .

From page A19

failed to coordinate with GAB on the implementation of the league rules, particularly the imposition of sanctions on erring players.

"Owing to the social stigma that is attached to being declared a drug dependent, the PBA must exercise all caution in its campaign to weed the menace of drugs from the league," said Jaworski.

Jaworski, however, acknowledged that the league instituted the mandatory drug-testing program with the assistance of the DOH to make PBA a "drug-free league."

The senator reminded his colleagues that the drug problem had a "grave impact on the nation" because, he said, basketball is the country's national pastime.

With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

Lerma gets silver

LERMA Bulauitan Gabito put everything into her sixth and last attempt to snatch the silver medal in the women's long jump of the Asian Athletics Grand Prix second leg Sunday in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Tuguegarao-born Gabito cleared 6.31 meters to place second to Yelena Kochsheyeva of Kazakhstan, who ruled the event again with a 6.36m effort this time.

Maristella Torres, the reigning national open champion who placed second at 6.21 in the first leg held in India last week, was bothered by the strong wind and placed fifth and last at 5.59m. Kyrgystan's Elena Bobrovskala did 6.12m to win the bronze for the second time.

Gabito, who was fourth in India at 6.11 m, won $1,500 as runner-up.

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Sunkist PBL Unity Cup

Big J versus Big J

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WAS it the Return of the Jedi?

No, simply, it was the Return of J. Big J, if you will.

All this talk about the pulling power of a Crispa-Toyota match being the reason for the huge success, crowd-wise, of last week's Reunion Game at the Cubao Big Dome is nothing but crap. If you haven't been told yet about the real reason why the Crispa versus Toyota thing being such a big hit, listen up.

The fans of the old variety came back to see Robert Jaworski come back.

They came back partly to see how fat some of the former PBA greats have become; they were not disappointed.

They came back mainly to savor the Living Legend; everything else was mere sideshow.

They came, they saw, they went home satisfied.

And the Big J had the Big G by his side all the time that this particular Good Friday was unfolding.

Big G?

Yup. Big J has always referred to Big G as permanently bigger than Big J.

"Big G is Big God, who else?" Jaworski has said a million times when he was still playing the game seriously until the senate snatched him from our grip.

Basketball's loss was public service's gain.

Never mind that the Big J sat out the entire first half. They would have even forgiven him had he not played at all. All he had to say after the game, mike or bullhorn in hand, was, "Sorry, my dear fans, but I am in pain as I have a bum stomach. I'll make it up to all of you next time."

Many would have shed tears on hearing that.

It was enough that he was there, whether resting on the bench or playing on the hard court. Devotees worship icons on sight.

So, who said God is not a sports fanatic?

Or, to be blunt about it, who said God does not play favorites?

Jaworski seems blessed that he can't seem to go wrong. What could be the explanation. That the Big G was looking over the Big J's shoulders all this time? Who knows, the Big G might also want to make the Big J president of this republic. Can anyone stop the Big G from doing that?

Not even Pilate this time.

Hey, if Toyota fans would insist God was pro Big J on this particular evening, amen to that. For, how explain the fact that the Big J sank the shot of the night?

At the risk of earning Mequi's ire again, I'd say the Big G made Big J make the shot.

At the risk of earning Mequi's ire again, I'd say the Big G ordered Ramon Fernandez to issue the assist-pass to the Big J.

At the risk of earning Mequi's ire again, I'd say the Big G made that opening for the Big J to fire that shot from afar.

If there was one reason that night why the Big G–if he can help it–favors more joy than sadness, it was that the Big J sank the triple. An act in any form done by Jawo is almost heroism of the first order; it elicits instant euphoria.

To be sure, the Big G, like Small G (Glo, who else?), cannot make everybody happy. But before the Big J's shot came, many of the fans were already happy, particularly the Crispanatics.

Golly, the still trim and alert Abet Guidaben ran roughshod over the opposition to hit a game-high 17 points. Atoy Co can still dish it out, banging home back-to-back hits followed by a trey from Bogs Adonardo that cut Toyota's lead to 62-61.

After that 7-0 blast, there was much time left for a Crispa comeback.

But Toyota had ball possession. And Jaworski, the nation's best point guard of all time, could have just milked the clock and steer Toyota safely to a one-point victory. In any win, a margin of one or a margin of 100 don't mean a thing; for, basically, no matter the winning margin, the outcome will remain unchanged. A win is a win is a win is a win.

But Jaworski seemed always destined to a life of pomp and bombast, let alone controversy.

This night of nights, the Big J had other plans other than the ordinary. Again.

And with the Big G playing His role to the hilt once more as Big G (guardian) to the Big J, the shot bordering on the magical, if not mysterious, was fired. When it found its mark, the roar that followed was an explosion like no other. Even the non-believers let their hair down.

At 65-61, Toyota's victory had been secured.

As I said, all the Big J needed to affirm his legend was to be physically present for the Reunion Game. That one shot he fired, the only one from him for the night, was but gravy. Confirmed with the shot when it went in was Jaworski being the Chosen One.

So, my advise to the dreamers of a Return Match set for next year? Go talk to the Big J now. Tomorrow may be too late.

Last time I heard, the PBA's Big J is being groomed to play next year one-on-one against the NBA's Big J (Jordan). Michael Jordan. In NBA territory yet.

With Jawo, nothing seems impossible.

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Snooky Villanueva	1	0
Bebeng Gallego	1	0
Dennis Orcullo	0	1
Dodong Andam	0	1
Lee Vann Corteza	0	1
Marlon Manalo	x	x
Warren Kiamco	x	x

Sorenstam returns to LPGA in triumph

Annika wins by 3, leads money list anew

AURORA, Illinois—Annika Sorenstam, playing in her first LPGA Tour event since her historic rounds at the Colonial, breezed to a three-stroke victory in the Kellogg-Keebler Classic on Sunday.

Though she bogeyed her final two holes, she'd built up such a big lead it hardly mattered. She finished with a 1-under 71, giving her a 17-under 199 for the 54-hole tournament.

"Obviously I'm very, very pleased," she said. "It's been a great week, and to come back and perform the way I did is pretty much incredible."

Mhairi McKay had four birdies on the back nine, but a triple-bogey on the front had all but ended her chances. McKay shot even par, finishing three strokes back at 14-under 202.

It was Sorenstam's second victory of the year on the LPGA Tour –her 44th overall. Sorenstam earned $180,000 with the win, putting her back in first place on the money list with $734,501.

Though Sorenstam missed the cut at the Colonial, her grace under unbelievable pressure won her millions of fans worldwide. And many were out in force Sunday. More than 22,000 people came out for the final round–most just to see Sorenstam. They wore the now-familiar "Go Annika!" buttons, and followed her from hole to hole as if she was the Pied Piper.

As she walked up the fairway on the fourth hole, a group of kids on the balcony of one of the huge homes lining the course screamed, "We love you, Annika!" Sorenstam grinned and waved at them as the crowd laughed.

Even tournament volunteers got in on the lovefest. They followed her up the 18th fairway, a sea of red the backdrop for her victory. When she made her final putt, she skipped backward with a big grin on her face and tossed her ball into the crowd.

Sorenstam ran away with the inaugural Kellogg-Keebler Classic last year, winning by 11 strokes and matching the tour record for relation to par in a 54-hole event with a 21-under 195. She looked as if she was going to shatter that record Sunday, making birdies on her first two holes.

Counting the five she made to close her round Saturday, she had seven birdies in a row.

But then, just as she did Saturday, she ran into problems with her putter. On the par-3 No. 3, she landed about 10 feet above the hole with her tee shot, almost a certain gimme. But the ball slid by the edge of the cup, running a foot long.

On the par-4 No. 7, she misfired on her second shot and landed in some thick rough inches above a bunker next to the green. She got within 10 feet of the pin on her next shot, but her par putt was long by about 18 inches and she had her first bogey of the day.

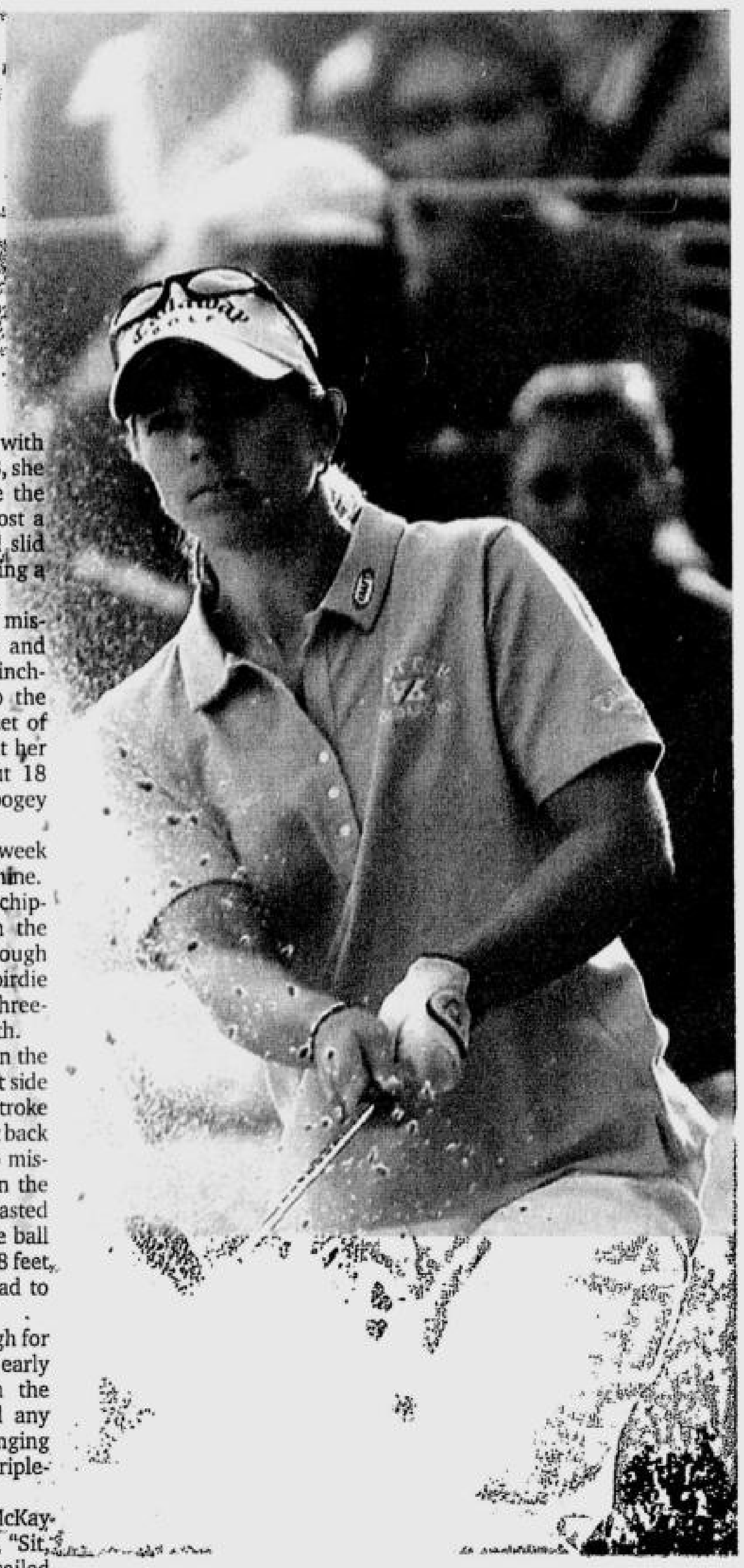
It was the first time this week she had a bogey on the front nine.

She got to 19 under after chipping within two inches on the par-5 14th, but things got rough after that. She missed her birdie putt on the 15th, and three-putted for a bogey on the 17th.

She pushed her tee shot on the 18th into fescue off of the left side of the fairway, and took a stroke for an unplayable lie. She got back out into the fairway, only to misfire and land in a bunker on the left side of the green. She blasted out, waving as if to push the ball along, but it stopped about 18 feet short of the hole and she had to settle for another bogey.

But it was still good enough for a win, thanks to McKay's early misfortunes. McKay began the day two strokes back, and any hope she had of challenging Sorenstam faded with her triple-bogey on the par-4 No. 4.

On her second shot, McKay overflew the green, yelling, "Sit, sit, please sit!" as the ball sailed ahead. *AP*


SORENSTAM blasts out of a bunker on the 18th hole. REUTERS

SPORTSWATCH

Sampilo NBL Player of the Week

MELFRED Sampilo, a six-foot guard from Misamis Occidental became the first recipient of the National Basketball League Player of the Week award by powering Compak Shineway-Ozamiz to two straight victories at the Gov. Angel Medina Memorial gym in Ozamiz City. The 30-year-old Sampilo edged out two other guards–Woodraw Enriquez and Aldrich Reyes–who combined to lift M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Jewellers of Cebu past their two rivals also in Ozamiz city. Sampilo scored 17 and grabbed two rebounds in Shineway's 77-71 victory over Air Philippines-Bacolod and then had 19 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals the following day as his team ripped Spring Cooking Oil-Bulacan, 75-64. Sampilo was the unanimous choice of journalists and television broadcasters covering the cagefest supported by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, Gatorade, Nature's Spring Water, Supercat, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman and Molten Basketballs.

Tycangco tops fishing in Cagayan

TONY Tycangco of Atco Motors and Parts Sales captured the championship of the recent Triple-V 46th Nationals with two sailfish hooked on the third day, tallying 116.7 kg from 12 fish. Triple-V Group president Vic-Vic Villavicencio supported the fifth leg of the 12-round Angler of the Year (AOY) derby of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation in San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan. Four-time AOY Rico Gueco and 2002 AOY Mayenn Ordoveza ruled the first two days but settled for second place at 100.kg. Edmund Lim and Gilbert Medios placed third with 93.8 kg. Medios landed the largest sailfish at 35.7 kg. Other heaviest fish awardees are: Mario Tayag, Dorado, 14 kg; Ignacio Locsin, Tanguigui, 11.9 kg; Rey Buencamino, Wahoo, 10 kg; and Fr. Nana Piva, Barracuda, 5.1 kg. For more details, contact Camille James at PGFF at 373-0743/373-0248 or e-mail pgff1940@yahoo.com.

Arcilla reclaims men's No. 1 spot

ARCILLA

SUBIC—Third seed Johnny Arcilla outplayed fourth seed Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-1, 6-2, yesterday to snare the men's singles crown in the second Coca-Cola National Tennis Open Championships at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center Indoor court here. With the win, Arcilla bounced back as the country's No. 1 player after clinching his third consecutive Open title this year. "I didn't perform well last year and I promised myself that I will do my best to win this time," said the 23-year-old Arcilla, who lost 3-6, 3-6, to former national Pop Sabandon in the third round last year. Arcilla earned 600 points and P20,000 in cash plus an additional 300 points and P5,000 after teaming up with Mora to win the doubles title over Jesse Lapore and Ruel, 7-6 (3), 6-2. Top seed Ana Patricia Santos defeated second seed Alyssa Labay of Bacolod, 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, to capture the women's singles title.

Free dance group exercises slated

THE CARDIO street dance group exercises jointly staged by Gold's Gym and Ayala center resumes every Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Glorietta 3 Park in Makati. The free sessions features Finnish instructor Sami Vaskola who is the coach of the Philippine sports aerobic team. Classes held twice a day on weekends from 7 to 9 a.m. include the following: Classic Hi-low and Tai-chi (June 7), Hi-low Energy & Yoga Basic (June 8), Aero Hip Hop (June 14), Cardio Energy and Gold's Pump (June 15), Street Funk & Basic Strength (June 21), Cardio Boxing and Core Stretch (June 22), Dance Exercise & Dance Stretch (June 28), and Street Dance & Yoga Stretch (June 29). Call Gold's Gym at 752-8081 for more details.

Double treat for cockfight fans

COCKFIGHT aficionados get a double treat in today's staging of the "National Fil-Am Cock Derby" at Mandaluyong Coliseum. First, is the presence of bigtime participants from Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Panay Island, Bicol, Masbate, Pangasinan, Ilocos, Tarlac, Zambales and Pampanga. And second, the "Ucap Cocker of the Year 2003" winner will be known after this event. The top contenders are sabong idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Hammer, 47.5 points); former ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina, 44.5); Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (44.5) and 2000 Ucap Cocker of the Year Jet Fernando (JSF-GPI, 41). Derby host is OPMI president Vic Yu while sponsors are Sagupaan B-50 Forten, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo, Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Heritage Hotel, Pagcor Casino Filipino and Lakpue Drug's Washout Shampoo. For details, contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Women's volleyball tourney on

THE FIRST Rexona Municipal Open Women's Volleyball Tournament opened recently at the Bernardo Astrodome in San Juan. Limited to players, aged 16 to 23, the tournament will run until the 2nd week of June. Present during the opening were the participating teams, officials of different municipalities, officers of Ad Staunch Communication Network and officials of the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association. San Juan bested Quezon City in the inaugural game.

CEREMONIAL MOVES
National security adviser and NCFP honorary Chair Rollo Golez (right) and QC Rep. Maite Defensor do the ceremonial moves during the opening of the 2003 National Youth Chess Championship recently at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Looking on are (from left) IM Rodolfo Tan Cardoso, Fide honorary president Florencio Campomanes, NCFP president Matt Defensor and NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo.

Perry pockets Memorial title

Woods finishes 4th

DUBLIN, Ohio—Kenny Perry, who had a record-setting victory at the Colonial last week, built another big lead Sunday at the Memorial. He ran out of gas at the end and closed with three straight bogeys, but still shot even-par 72 for a two-shot victory over Lee Janzen.

"This is the time of my life," Perry said. "I've never played golf like this."

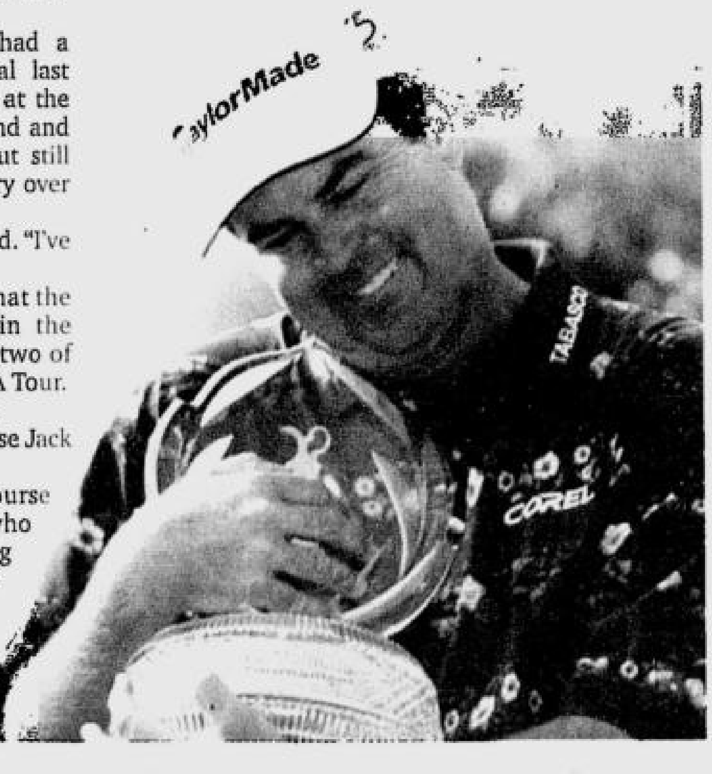
It was the first time in his career that the 42-year-old Perry has won twice in the same year–back-to-back, no less, at two of the most prestigious stops on the PGA Tour.

He lapped the field at Hogan's Alley.

He was just as dominant on the course Jack Nicklaus built.

"I'm sure glad Jack built this golf course because I love it here," said Perry, who joined Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Greg Norman and Hale Irwin as the only multiple winners at the Memorial.

Woods, a three-time winner at Muirfield Village, had four birdies and an eagle on the back nine and closed with a 7-under 65. He tied for fourth in his final tournament before the US Open. *AP*



PERRY hugs the Muirfield Memorial Tournament trophy. REUTERS

Empire Maker top challenger

NEW YORK—Empire Maker and Dynever appear to be Funny Cide's strongest challengers in the Belmont Stakes. Just who else will show up to try to spoil the gelding's Triple Crown bid?

It's likely the field Saturday will be smaller than last year, when 10 horses took on War Emblem in his attempt to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont. He finished eighth.

While owners and trainers of the competition mull whether to run or not, Funny Cide has kept busy despite the rain that has turned the track into a quagmire over the last two weeks.

Funny Cide jogged twice around the track Sunday, and will put in his final major workout on Tuesday depending on the track condition.

Sunday's steady rain pushed Best Minister's workout back to Monday.

The colt is taking nearly the same path to the Belmont as last year's winner Sarava. Both won the Sir Barton Stakes on the Preakness undercard for trainer Ken McPeek. *AP*

Cagayan netter scores twice in Cebu

CEBU—Francis Alcantara of Cagayan de Oro City nipped hometown entry James Canete, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, to grab the boys' 14-under then scored a double victory after an easy 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Bernardine Siso in the boys' 12-under division at the close of the adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 here Saturday at the Sancase Tennis Club.

Melody Barraquias of Dumaguete City duplicated the twin feat following victories over Floreza Alesna, 6-2, 6-4 in the girls' 21-under and Jin Querubin 7-5, 6-3 in the girls 16-under brackets in the adidas netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, Milo and Sports kids with a Group-3 Philta sanction.

Adidas sports manager Goody Custodio awarded the trophies. Meanwhile, the Luz Village Tennis Club in Butuan City hosts the third leg of the nationwide adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 starting today.

Sy, Tuason rule Carmona karting tilt

CARMONA—Manny Sy of Primos Racedevils and JP Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile shone by topping their respective classes in the fourth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series Sunday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

Sy, also backed by Babyflo and Caress, made the decisive move in the last five laps to squeak past Dado Pena of Birel-A3 Motorsports, M&M Racing-MP Turbo's Michelle Bumgarner and Team Cebu-Demvels' Tyson Sy in the premiere Open Class of this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso, ZED and Eastways.

Sta. Elena hosts 7th PSC-PSA golf meet

THE SEVENTH Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Goodwill golf tournament will be held tomorrow, June 4, at the plush Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Chair Eric Buhain said the PSC hopes to further solidify cooperation and partnership among stakeholders in the local sports community through the 18-hole event.

Participating in the event, backed by Master Sports, Pan West, Fairways and Blue Waters, Bayview Hotel, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Puerto Azul, Manila Pavillion, Rudy Project, Centrum, Air Philippines, and STI, are officials from the PSC and sports editors and scribes from the PSA and PSC-POC Media Group. Also invited are officials from the Philippine Olympic Committee and National Sports Associations.

Team PSC will be led by Buhain and commissioners Leon Montemayor, Ambrosio de Luna and William Ramirez. Speaheading the PSA are Lito Tacujan of the Philippine Star, Jun Engracia and Al Mendoza of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Ding Marcelo of the Manila Bulletin.

National Golf Association of the Philippines executive officer Jake Ayson, Table Tennis Association of the Philippines president Vic Balbuena, Julian Camacho of wushu, Chuck Buenaventura of gymnastics, and the POC's Freddie Jalasco are among the participants in the guest division.

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2 THE MATRIX RELOADED	2 THE MATRIX RELOADED	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12 30. 2 50. 5 00. 7 10. 9 20	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12 30. 2 40. 4 50. 7 00. 9 10	Onstage CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 AGENT CODY BANKS 12 40. 2 50. 5 00. 7 10. 9 20. 11 30	3 ANG TANGING INA
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Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	PAKNER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5	KAPIT BAHAY

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	DAYO
3	PAKNER
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	KAPIT BAHAY
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	WALANG KAPALIT
2	X- MEN-2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	KAPIT BAHAY

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	KAPIT BAHAY
5	PAKNER
6	ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
8 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY)	FRIDA

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KAPIT BAHAY
2	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	PAKNER
6 (DOLBY)	ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	FRIDA
9	AGENT CODY BANKS

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2 (SDDS)	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PAKNER
4 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	KAPIT BAHAY
5 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAKNER

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAKNER

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEX & ZEN
Lords	KAPIT BAHAY
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4	PAKNER
5	AGENT CODY BANKS

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 , 879.2029

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (SMART DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	FRIDA
7	KAPITBAHAY

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7303

1	PAKNER
2 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	PAKNER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3 (DOLBY)	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 (DTS)	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KAULAYAW
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA
4	KAPIT BAHAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	AGENT CODY BANKS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PAKNER
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	
2	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BAYARAN
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DAYO
2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	WHAT A GIRL WANTS

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3 (DOLBY)	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

AGENT CODY BANKS

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNERS
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	ANG KAPITBAHAY
8	ANG TANGING INA

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	FRIDA
7	SO CLOSE
8	AGENT CODY BANKS
9	PAKNERS
10	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	PAKNERS
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	FRIDA
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	PAKNERS
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3	FRIDA
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	ANG KAPITBAHAY
8	X-MEN 2
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	PAKNERS
12	ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	RING 0
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	FRIDA
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	PAKNERS
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
12	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	ANG KAPITBAHAY
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PAKNERS
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	AGENT CODY BANKS
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	FRIDA
2	PAKNERS
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PAKNERS
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9	AGENT CODY BANKS
10	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	PHONE BOOTH
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	A MAN APART
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY
5	PAKNERS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	PHONE BOOTH
2	CLOSED
3	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	CLOSED
8	A MAN APART

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	PAKNERS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNERS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	ANG TANGING INA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	PAKNERS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
4	A MAN APART

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-0976

1	AGENT CODY BANKS 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

call-a-movie. 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30LMF,11:10 END
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	MATRIX RELOADED
7	MATRIX RELOADED
8	FRIDA
9	PAKNERS
10	ANG KAPITBAHAY

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6	FRIDA
7	PAKNERS

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	PAKNERS
7	FRIDA
8	ANG KAPITBAHAY

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6	PAKNERS
7	FRIDA
8	ANG KAPITBAHAY

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
2	ANG KAPITBAHAY
3	PAKNERS
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	MATRIX RELOADED

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	AGENT CODY BANKS
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	ANG KAPIT BAHAY

Sta. Rosa Laguna
(049)837-0907

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	AGENT CODY BANKS

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	A MAN APART
5	SOLARIS
6	ANG TANGING INA

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	A MAN APART
4	HOT TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5	PHONEBOOTH
6	ANG TANGING INA

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Marielle sings at Calesa Bar

SHOW TIME

THE WIDE-EYED, winsome singer who won people's hearts with her appeal for world peace in the unforgettable Coca-Cola ad, is a big girl now. She has also assumed a different name. The kiddie name Lilet is no more. In its place is the more engaging Marielle.

The SOP mainstay will top-bill a solo concert at Calesa Bar of Hyatt Hotel on Thursday, June 5, with guest, 604.

Her repertoire will consist of old favorites, songs from the '70s and the '80s, along with new ditties like "My Heart Will Go On" and "Sunlight." She also plans to showcase the evolution of her singing style by recounting singer who have influenced her.

Marielle will render a Jim Brickman medley with brother Jessie, who will accompany her on acoustic guitar. It will be recalled that Jessie was part of the family band Musikenesis, which performed here and abroad.

Accompanying Marielle on the piano is Rudy Francisco himself, Marjelle recently signed a contract with Ivory Records, where she will release an album soon. Among the songs in the album is the soulful "Sa Paglisan Mo," which Marielle composed herself. She will also sing this in her show.

Marielle recently appeared in the episode "Awit ng Pag-ibig" opposite Christopher Peralta in "Nagmamahal, Gina," hosted by Gina de Venecia.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali I	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 5	AGENT CODY BANKS
Ali 6	FRIDA
Ali 7	KAPITBAHAY

ARANETA COLISEUM	
JUNE 2	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JUNE 8	PBA GAMES
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 28	NCAA OPEN CEREMONIES

ELEPHANT WORLD
ELEPHANT SHOW
REOPENING SOON !
• FUN RIDES
TAGADISCO • VIKING SHIP
START 4PM (DAILY)

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PAKNERS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG TANGING INA
B	PAKNERS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	PAKNERS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FRIDA
CINEMA-6	DAYO
CINEMA-7	RING-0
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	ANGER MANAGEMENT
CINEMA 3	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS P13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	AGENT CODY BANKS PG13 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50	TANGING INA GP 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40
BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 12:40,2:50,5:00, 7:10,9:20	FRIDA R18 11:30,2:00,4:30, 7:00,9:30	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 11:30,1:40,3:50, 6:00,8:10,10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

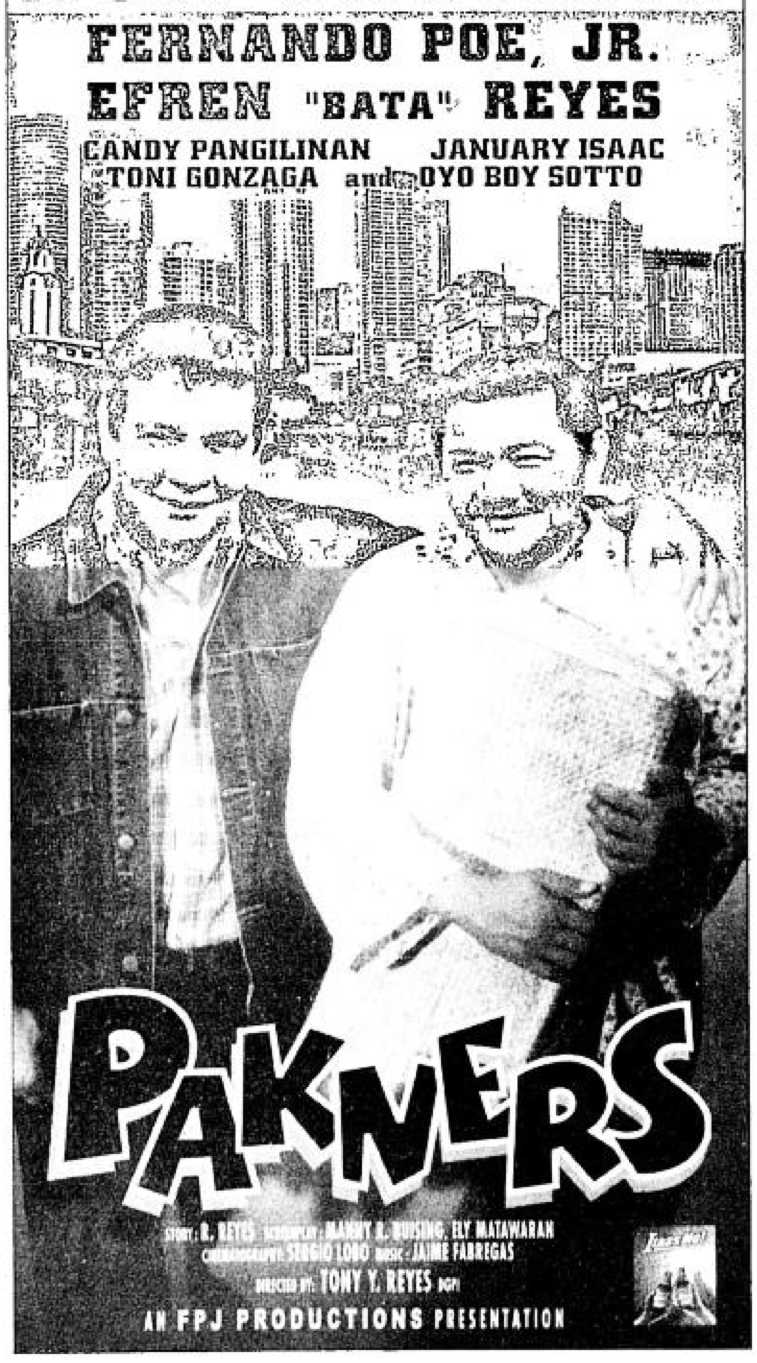
CINEMA 1
BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
P13

CINEMA 2
AGENT CODY BANKS
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
P-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

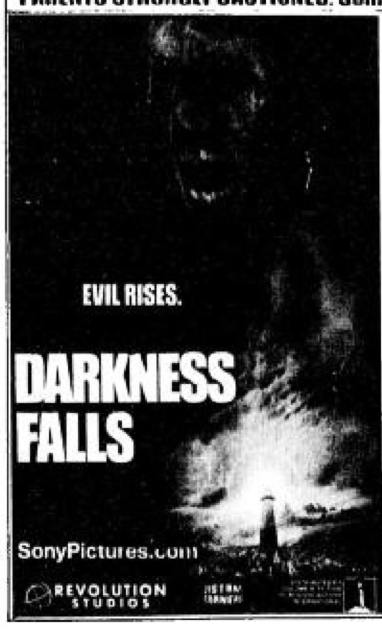
MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 19 2003 "CHANGE A LIFE" (LANI MISALUCHA) 8:30PM
JUNE 28 2003 NINA "HEAVEN SENT" 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
NOW SHOWING



FERNANDO POE, JR.
EFREN "BATA" REYES
CANDY PANGILINAN JANUARY ISAAC
TONI GONZAGA and OYO BOY SOTTO
PAKNERS
STORY: R. REYES SCREENPLAY: MANNY R. BUISING, ELY MATAWARAN
CINEMATOGRAPHY: SERGIO LOBO MUSIC: JAIME FABREGAS
DIRECTED BY: TONY Y. REYES
AN FPJ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTATION

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13



'Darkness Falls'
Scream all you can TOMORROW!

Legend says an old woman wrongly accused of a heinous crime was savagely slaughtered in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago. The vengeful spirit of 'the Tooth Fairy', hangs over the townspeople, ready to pounce on anyone who sees her in the dark.

A young man returns to this hometown to confront his haunted past, and perhaps save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from the unrelenting evil of the Tooth Fairy.

You'll never go in the dark alone again! Kakaba-kaba ka ba? Bring a date or the whole barkada -- and hold on for your dear life!

DON'T MISS AN ACHINGLY FUNNY MOVIE WITH ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST TALENTED FAMILIES
AN AYALA CINEMAS EXCLUSIVE
MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY
Some families can survive anything. Even each other.

Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is a man caught in the middle. Trying to avoid the mistakes his father made, Alex is navigating the tricky roles of father, son, and husband.

Onscreen together for the first time in their careers, Michael Douglas and Kirk Douglas join their real-life relations (Cameron Douglas, Diana Douglas) in a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and ultimately inescapable bonds of family.

OPENS JUNE 11 EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3
AYALA CINEMAS
Buena Vista International
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING AT ArtFilm
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

"BRILLIANT!"
KINNEAR
DAFOE
AUTO FOCUS

AUTO FOCUS
GREG KINNEAR & WILLEM DAFOE

A peek into the secret life of Hollywood celebrity known to audiences as the star of 1960s TV series Hogan's Heroes, Bob Crane. But behind the loving wife (RITA WILSON), the successful comedic career & the public adoration lies an obsession for the forbidden. Auto Focus chronicles Bob Crane's downward spiral into erotic addiction - from his promiscuous lifestyle & unconventional hobbies to his mysterious death.

Auto Focus creates an absorbing portrait of a man whose carnal hunger brought about his eventual down fall as an actor, a father & a man.

"TWO THUMBS UP, WAY UP!"
-- Ebert & Roeper

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA
COLUMBIA PICTURES
INQUIRER

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JUNE 4 AT ArtFilm
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?

Getting the alias was half the battle.
Surviving it is the other.
WHO IS
CLETIS TOUT?
CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS,
PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN

A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.

"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
NOKIA
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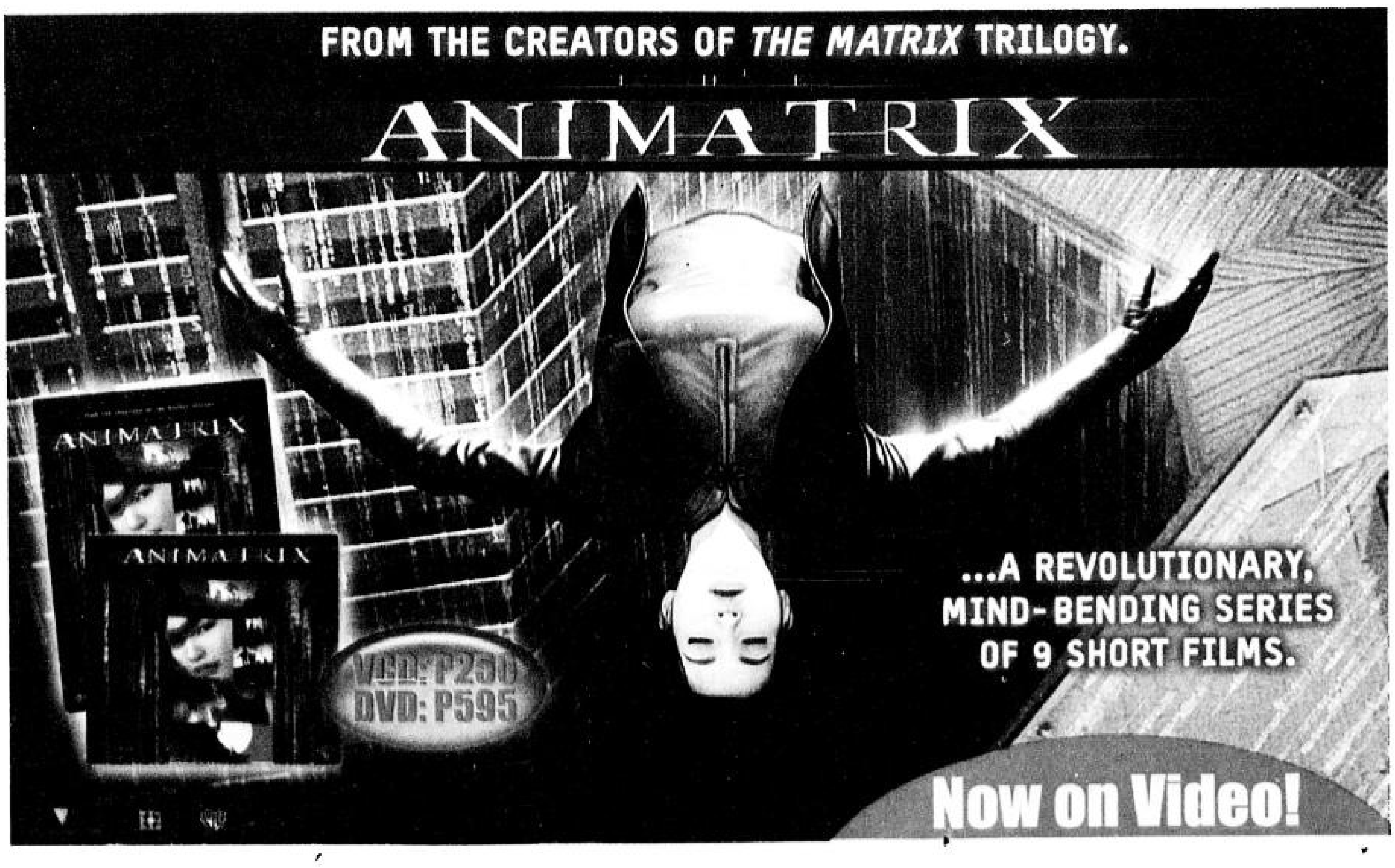
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'KUH HITS BACK'

Still a class act after all these years

By Vladimir S. Bunoan
Contributor

REVIEW

CALL it a prelude to something big.

One year before her silver anniversary as an entertainer, Kuh Ledesma has started to look back on her stellar career with "Kuh Hits Back," a two-night concert held at the Music Museum last month featuring her best and biggest songs.

If Ledesma and her producers were testing the waters and feeling the pulse of the market, they should be feeling pretty upbeat, judging from the warm response of the crowd. One can expect a grand celebration from the country's pop diva to commemorate her silver anniversary.

It has been quite some time since Ledesma appeared in a solo show. In the past few years, perhaps owing to the shaky economic environment and a little inspiration from the successful "VH1 Divas" series, Ledesma and her handlers seemed to be playing it safe by pairing her off with some of the brightest female singers in the country such as Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Pops Fernandez and, most recently, Zsa Zsa Padilla.

"Kuh Hits Back" not only had the spotlight solely on Ledesma; her repertoire also consisted only of her original hits plus a few covers that have become closely associated with her, such as "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," one of the most requested songs during her days as a performer at the Alibi Bar of the Regent (now The Heritage Hotel).

The crowd at the Music Museum gamely embraced the reminiscing mood of the evening. Actually, it was difficult not to be swept by nostalgia. The day after the show, my companion scoured the record bars for old Kuh Ledesma albums after realizing how much she had enjoyed—and missed—her music.

A league of her own

But the joy of "Kuh Hits Back" wasn't just about memories. Watching Ledesma perform was a refreshing break from today's live music scene. Although she began as a member of the show band Music & Magic, Ledesma quickly developed her own style and image as a solo performer, and has since been almost on a league of her own.

Despite some experimentations that misfired (remember her much-ballyhooed "Precious" album or her short-lived Madonna fixation?) Ledesma's class act has been fairly intact through the years.

When everyone else is going for a foreign R&B sound or belting a la Regine Velasquez, Ledesma is comfortable with her silky crooning and light pop jazz arrangements. And she's extremely at ease in an elegant environment.

"Classy" pretty much describes "Kuh Hits Back," with its simple stage design of white cloth draped in the background and accented by a chandelier. Accompanied by a veteran backup band led by her long-time musical director Rey Cristobal, Ledesma began the show with the anthem "Ako ay Pilipino," which could be a statement on today's highly westernized local pop scene.

She followed this up with two OPM classics, a breezy rearrangement of "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika" and a slightly ethereal version of "Noong Unang Panahon," which reminded one of just how lyrical and socially aware pop music could be during the late 1970s. Moreover, these were among the popular requests she took during her *puwesto* days at the Regent. Times have changed indeed.

Well appreciated

To wrap up this chapter in her career, she launched into an abridged, well-appreciated version of "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina." Louder applause greeted "Dito Ba," her first single and theme song of the movie "Miss X," followed by "Bulaklak," a Filipino version of a French song. And as another reminder of how poetic songs were back then, she sang the haunting "Sita's Song (Magbalik Ka Na Mahal)" from "Rama Hari."

Of course, back then, local singers were already doing covers of foreign material, but Ledesma's medley of Elton John's "Your Song" and Barry Manilow's "This One's for You" was so seamlessly arranged that she effortlessly claimed it as her own.

Another cover from her early years was the Stylistics' "Betcha By Golly Wow," which she sang with guest Ara Mina. The sexy actress proved that she can indeed carry a tune when she did Christina Aguilera's version of "Reflections" (from the Disney movie "Mulan") but even her ample curves could not fire up a truly limp song like "Ay Ay Ay Pagibig," a shameless rewrite of Mariah Carey's "My All."

Hit after hit

Ledesma had three other special guests, including two newcomers. Toni showed promise as a singer/songwriter with her pop-country original composition, which sounded like a perky Amy Grant song. Rebekah, who was spotted at a local singing contest, proved to be a strong belter in the Bituin Escalante mode in her extremely showy rendition of "Just Once." She added soul to her duet with Ledesma on "Sana," redone with a more sensuous groove.

The other guest is young singer Kyla, who is slowly developing a style of her own with her new single, "I Will Be There." She also sang "A Long Long Time Ago," with Ledesma.

Despite having several guests, the show never descended to a variety show level. For one, the duets were all Ledesma's songs. But more importantly, the hits just kept coming, from chart-toppers like "I Think I'm In Love" and "One More Try," to quiet gems like "Help Me Forget" and seldom-heard tunes like "Minsan Sa Isang Panahon," the theme song of "Karma." Indeed, they reminded the audience of the vastness of Ledesma's discography and that she made some truly moving songs like "Sino ang Baliw" and "Hello."

More to be sung

Ledesma and musical director Cristobal also chose to fiddle with the arrangements, mostly giving them a light jazz gloss. For "Lihim," they chose to add a lithe bossa nova beat, although for "Sino ang Baliw," they retained the original unforgettable arrangement.

"Til I Met You" brought the concert to a close, which also ensured that the crowd will ask for more. The crowd did. Ledesma quickly sang "Wakas," followed by "Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan," and then heeded the many requests for "Home," which she did with a slight African beat.

Despite a repertoire already filled with memorable songs, "Kuh Hits Back" still failed to cover a significant chunk of Ledesma's hit list. She didn't do anything from "Unforgettable" or from her movie, "Tinimbang ang Langit," or the jazzier cuts of "Just You Just Me."

If she does plan something big for her 25th year, there are still a lot of songs waiting to be sung again.

SILVER LADY. Kuh Ledesma sings her best and biggest songs

Lady sings the classics

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

STACEY KENT
LOVE IS
The Tender Trap

REVIEW

THEY don't make songs like they use to do.

How many times have we heard our elders complain about this, when they miss the days when melody and lyrics were what made a song great, not a toned and pierced belly on the album cover?

Another valid complaint is that artists today do not sing the way artists did in the old days, like the late great Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. When almost everybody today wants to be labeled a "diva," singers consider themselves good only if veins are ready to burst in their necks when they sing. They seem to feel they are better than everybody else when they scream their way to the high notes.

It is such a welcome, refreshing change to listen to New York native and now London resident Stacey Kent. She proves in her interpretations of songs from the Great American Songbook that one does need to resort to vocal acrobatics to draw and hold an audience. She does the very opposite, simply letting her crystal clear voice and perfect phrasing bring out the beauty of the melody and the message of the classics.

Clear and honest

In Kent's albums, such as "Close Your Eyes", "The Tender Trap," "Let Yourself Go" and "Dreamsville," it is the immortal songs of Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers, to name a few, that take center stage, with her and her handpicked set of musicians providing the accompaniment.

Kent takes the listener through the various phases of romance in a clear and honest way. She takes you from the discovery of a new love in "Didn't Know About You" and "Comes Love" and "I'm Putting All My Eggs in One Basket," to heartbreak in "One For My Baby (And One More For The Road), "By Myself" and "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning."

Then there are the songs that celebrate a relationship in full bloom, such as the Gershwins' "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "They All Laughed" and "He Loves and She Loves," and Johnny Mercer's "Fools Rush In," James Hanley's "Zing! Went the Strings Of My Heart" and Berlin's "They Say It's Wonderful."

In those days, people knew how to fall in love. And Kent brings back that feeling for a new generation of listeners.

Soul and phrasing

In the liner notes of one of Kent's albums, songwriter Jay Livingston says that Kent has the soul of Holliday and the fine rhythm phrasing of Fitzgerald and sings the way of Nat King Cole, straightforward, clean and clear.

"I love the way she will sing a line naturally, not waiting to catch up with the notes, almost conversationally," Livingston writes. "Then when she does get on the notes, the beat is powerful."

Helping her pay homage to the makers of these treasures are her husband Jim Tomlinson on saxophone and clarinet, Colin Oxley on guitar, Simon Thorpe and Dave Green on bass, David Newton on piano, and Steve Brown, Jasper Kviberg and Jeff Hamilton alternating on drums. Like Kent, they do not show off or attempt to dazzle the audience by running their fingers up and down the scales. They play in a subdued and elegant style that lets the melodies shine through.

Hits and awards

Kent, a Sarah Lawrence graduate with a degree in comparative literature, received several awards including the 2001 British Jazz Award. She was named the Best Vocalist at the BBC Radio Jazz Awards in 2002.

She first became a hit in Europe, with London hailing her as the best jazz vocalist in town, but her native US soon recognized her talent. Her album "The Tender Trap" was No. 1 at Amazon.com and No. 2 in the Billboard charts.

That Kent became a certified hit without the multimillion-dollar marketing push of a major music label is proof that music lovers are fed up with the histrionics and belting style of many of today's artists and are hankering for good old-fashioned music such as the kind that she provides.

I made the right choice with Bojo

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

WHEN I came out with the item that **Bojo Molina** had married his ex-girlfriend **Jen Kwe** in Guam in my previous column, I was already half-expecting the mom of **Rica Peralejo** (another ex of Boj) to react. In fact, she did and the one who took her call said she was angry.

In that column I quoted Pilar Mateo, a writer who's a common friend of Boj and mine, who said that now that Boj is married, the Rica's mom should stop bothering him.

As a mother myself, I get Mrs. Peralejo's drift. But why is she mad at me? Those were Pilar's words, not mine.

Be that as it may, I know I should be responsible for whatever comes out in my column, even if it's a verbatim quote. It does not mean that I take their word hook, line and sinker. I respect everybody's opinion even if I can't relate to it sometimes. Controversy is a basic ingredient of show biz and anybody in this biz should have the corresponding recipe so they can stomach the system. But some people are not made of sterner stuff.

Having grown up in the business, my threshold for intrigues is now beyond maximum tolerance. I've learned to live with intrigues. That is not to say that I don't have a soft side; that's reserved for my love department.

In the spirit of fairness, I tried to get in touch with Rica's mom, but she was out of town when I called and the cell phone signal was fluctuating. But I will air her side in my next column.

For now, all I can say is that Bojo is like a brother to me so I know him from head to foot and inside-out. When we talk it's not "show biz" at all. No lies and secrets between us. That's why I find it quite preposterous that Rica's mom was quoted in a tabloid as saying that she knows many things about Boj me.

I'm not being defensive. I'm just being factual when I say that I haven't seen even her shadow, so how can she claim that she's privy to my friendship with Boj?

Blood is indeed thicker than water. That's why I understand why Rica's mom has come to her daughter's defense. Sometimes, however, friends are even more than like family. Trite as it sounds, it's true that we can choose our friends but not our relatives. And I made the right choice when I made Boj one of my closest guy friends.

Personal

Merci beaucoup to my "nighttime twin" Riki Kwek and to my "soulsister" Ces Drilon for braving the rains to join me at my designer friend Cerena Masu's fashion show last Friday. Kudos, Cerena darling, for a successful show! Soon there will be much ado about Masu.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

MALL CONCERT TOUR
"The Faithful" mall concert tour, presented by Musicworx, kicked off to a great start at the Ever Gotesco Malls. The tour, which runs until July, will feature the likes of Jupiter Vidad, Nolyn and Lisa Cabahug, Junior Saraza, Josh Villanueva and Evelyn Serata. Musicworx will be at the Podium on June 6, SM Centerpoint on June 7, SM Fairview on June 20, SM North Edsa on June 21, SM Megamall on June 27 and Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas on July 6. All performances start 7 p.m. For more details, call 426-7270 or 926-2674. Admission is free.

SHOW TIME

Center for Pop holds recital in Alabang

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first largest training school in pop singing, will present another batch of promising young singers in a major concert, "In Fantasy," June 7, 7 p.m. at the Insular Life Auditorium in Filinvest, Ayala Alabang.

The concert features Karla Alexis Miranda, Janelyn Aguinaldo, Gian Karl Barbarona and Jayvee Grace Ortega.

The concert is organized by the Center for Pop (Laguna branch) under the management of Dedeth Aquino.

"In Fantasy" is hosted and directed by Butch Albarracin.

For more information, call 869-6702/ 520-0569 or 727-5293.

Danny Holmsen found dead

SAMPAGUITA Pictures musical director and movie director Danny Holmsen was found dead yesterday in his apartment in Cubao, Quezon City, according to police. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Holmsen worked on many of romantic dramas and musicals produced by Sampaguita Pictures. In 2001, he recorded CDs of religious songs. *Leah Salterio*

NEW HIT SINGLE
Vingo and Jimmy or April Boys are proving themselves to have totally gotten out of the shadow of their elder brother, April Boy Regino. The duo has just released their newest album under Concorde Records, "U2L," with the carrier single, "Kahit Mahirap Lang." The album includes other cuts like "Nagmamahal Nang Tapat."

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

DID YOU KNOW...

While rain fell and traffic stood still on the South Luzon Expressway last Saturday night, **Gretchen Barretto** and her live-in partner **Tonyboy Cojuangco** were dining at Antonio's Restaurant in Tagaytay, where reservations are made a month in advance.

It's a girl for Dingdong and Jessa

By Leah Salterio

JESSA Zaragoza had wanted a baby boy, but she was very happy when she found out in an ultrasound test two months ago that she and singer Dingdong Avanzado would be having a girl.

The singer-actress on Sunday morning gave birth to her first-born at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center. The couple said they would name the baby Jayda.

As early as March, Jessa took a maternity leave and stopped taping for the ABS-CBN soap "Bituin," where she stars with Nora Aunor and Carol Banawa. She also postponed promoting her second Star Records album "Kahit Ilang Umaga."

Her gynecologist, Dr. Margarita Agdamag at the Cardinal Santos Hospital, advised her not to go on mall tours. So the mall visits had to be postponed. But Jessa had said she would go full-blast in promoting the album after her delivery. She will also do provincial shows and a concert with her husband Dingdong in November at Onstage in Greenbelt and record an album with him, also for Star Records.

The couple's initial plan was for Jessa to deliver the baby in San Francisco, where some members of Dingdong's family are based. But since Dingdong couldn't afford to be away from the country for a long time because of his show biz commitments, he and Jessa decided that the baby should be born here.

Jessa and Dingdong were married on March 18, 2001. He is 11 years older than she.

Dingdong proposed marriage to Jessa in June 2000 in Lake Tahoe, when he brought her to the States for the first time.

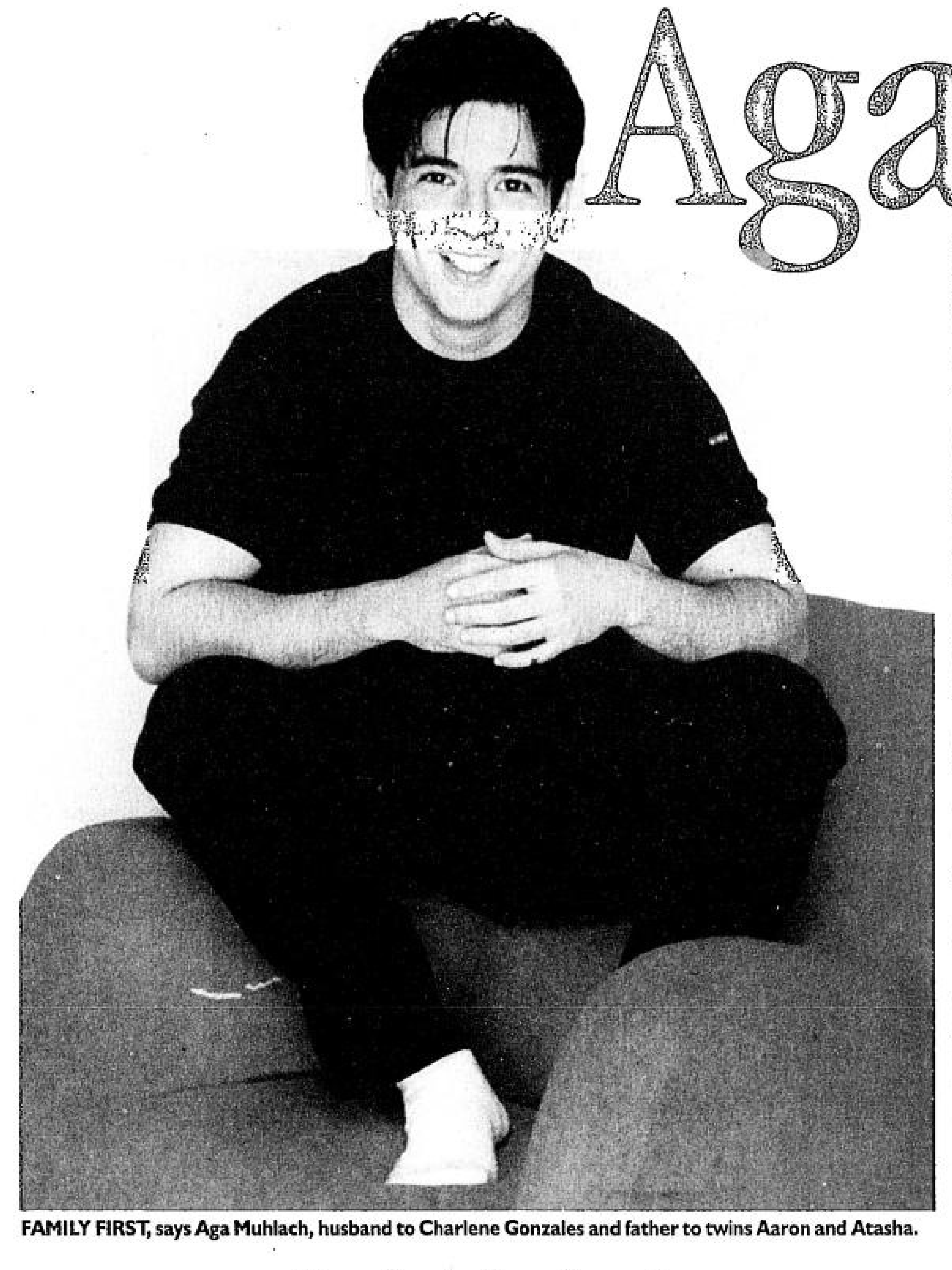
The show biz careers of Jessa and Dingdong are being managed by Manny Valera, who also handles those of Alessandra de Rossi, Jay Manalo, Jean Garcia and Zoren Legaspi.

"I want to have my old body curves back after giving birth," Jessa said "*Iba pa rin* when you're slim and fit."

Dingdong has a love child, Rafael, now 10, from a previous relationship with a girl who is not from show biz. The boy is in Grade 5 at St. Vincent's School in Quezon City.

ZARAGOSA

Aga: No politics for me



FAMILY FIRST, says Aga Muhlach, husband to Charlene Gonzales and father to twins Aaron and Atasha.

LEGAZPI CITY—Only in the Philippines: When a movie star is popular, the next logical step seems to be politics.

But screen heartthrob Aga Muhlach is not among them. Or, at least not yet.

When Aga and wife Charlene Gonzalez visited Albay last weekend, Aga was asked if he was planning to run for office next year.

Aga's reply was quick and simple: He has never considered running for any position in 2004.

He and Charlene and executives of Touch Mobile Co. were in a news conference held at La Roca Garden Restaurant in Gogon, Legazpi City, last Saturday.

Aga and Charlene are the main endorsers of Touch Mobile cell phones.

Aga said he would rather focus on his family than engage in politics.

"Family first before politics," he said.

He and Charlene are the beaming parents of one-year-old twins, a boy and a girl.

Later in Manila, Aga told INQUIRER Entertainment: "I'm not running for any elective position. I'm not ready for politics, although I agree that we need honest and competent people in the government.

"In the next elections," he added, "let's all vote right."

A source close to the actor said his reason for not going into politics is similar to that of Dolphy.

The king of comedy, in response to questions whether he had political plans, always said, "What if I win?"

Dolphy often said that winning an election could be easy for him. What would not be easy would be becoming a good, clean public official.

Aga, Charlene and other stars like Onemig Bondoc, Kempee de Leon and Arnel Ignacio were also in a two-hour show that capped the Magayon Festival held at the Peñaranda Park Saturday night. The event drew thousands of people from different parts of the province.

This early, popular stars have already expressed their willingness, readiness or desire to run for public office as early as in next year's elections. They include Richard Gomez, who has said he would be willing to run for senator—but only if the campaign funds of millions and millions of pesos would come from somewhere, or someone, else and not himself.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has announced his plan to run for president, has also said he would welcome Richard to be part of his senatorial slate in 2004.

Award-winning Elizabeth Oropesa is said to be aspiring for the mayor's post in Guinobatan town in Albay.

Ronnie Rickets, too, has made public his intention to run in the 2004 elections. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gollum wins MTV award

LOS ANGELES—Superheroes and special effects wizards battled for the spotlight at the 2003 MTV Movie Awards on Saturday, claiming several top trophies including the best movie prize for "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

"Two Towers," the middle chapter in the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy about an epic battle for control of Middle Earth, earned four awards, more than any other film. It also won best action sequence, on-screen team for stars Elijah Wood, Sean Astin and digitally-created Gollum, as well as a new honor for virtual performance for Gollum.

Winners were picked from a poll of viewers who watch cable TV network MTV and sister channel MTV2.

Among superhero movies winning awards was "Spider-Man," which earned Kirsten Dunst the title best actress and her and costar Tobey Maguire the honor of best on-screen kiss.

The award for breakthrough actress went to Jennifer Garner for her comic book hero role of Elektra in "Daredevil."

Rapper Eminem was named best actor in a film, as well as breakthrough performance by an actor in "8 Mile." *Reuters*

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: When you entered show biz two years ago, what was your goal?

Guest: I wanted to be a good and popular recording actress!

(Ah—please repeat?)

Host: What's the latest from the Department of Health?

Co-host: Only this morning, the month of May was declared as Asthma Day.

(How impressive—and confusing!)

Host: Our next guest has a new movie to promote. *Oh*, will you greet our viewers?

Guest: Hello! Thank you to our show!

(On second thought, just shut up…)

Host: What is your special greeting today, Mother's Day?

Guest: Of course, I want to greet Happy Mother's Day to all of my mothers!

(Exactly how many wombs did you come out of?)

Host: Are you an honest person when it comes to love? Do you tell your partner everything?

Guest: Yes—that way, if there's a problem, it can quickly be talked about, and solved. *Kung hindi, isang* prolong *pa nung prublema!*

(*Ay, isang* prolong!)

Host: What do you want to say to your best friend on the occasion of his birthday?

Guest: I want to say, "God bless you away!"

(Ah-choo to you, too!)

Host: What's the secret of your success in the business world?

Guest: I never say I can't. So, I can!

Host: That sounds so simple. Can you teach it to us?

Guest: Of course. If you say, "I no can," I tell you, "You will can!"

(We're sorry we asked!)

Host: Your office is being criticized again for the latest ship sinking. What do you have to say?

Guest: It's so easy to criticize, but our job is hard, so people should understand. We should not be the favorite sweeping boy all the time!

(That's whipping boy, sir.)

Controversial docus

STAR World re-telecasts the **Michael Jackson** documentaries that have made him more controversial than ever. Get both sides with the back-to-back screening of **Martin Bashir's** "Living with Michael Jackson" and Jackson's retort, "The Footage You Were Never Meant to See" at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11.

New episodes

THE CARTOON Network screens these new episodes in June: "Time Squad" Fridays at 6 p.m.: In the distant future, as events in the past begin to occur differently, the world's top leaders create an elite group of "history enforcement" officers known as the Time Squad. They are tasked to travel through time to make sure that history stays on course.

"Codename: Kids Next Door," Fridays at 5:30 p.m.: Five eager yet bumbling 10-year-olds join forces to free children from the tyrannical rule of adults. To mask their real identities, they use numbers instead of names. The youthful crew embarks on top-secret missions that utilize fantastic homemade technology like flying machines.

"Samurai Jack," Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.: The warrior is still stuck in the future and battles his age-old foe, **Aku**, as he tries to find his way back home in the past.

"Grim & Evil," Fridays at 9:30 p.m.: Join the show's unique trio of friends as they deal with the usual challenges of childhood—while dealing with unwanted visitors from the spirit world!

On Star World

WEDNESDAY, June 4 at 8 p.m., "The Robbie Williams Show" shows **Robbie Williams** at his musical best, surrounded by his adoring (mostly female fans). His list of songs includes old and new numbers, including tracks from his Ol' Blue Eyes phase like "Rock DJ," "Feel," "Mr. Bojangles" and "Angels."

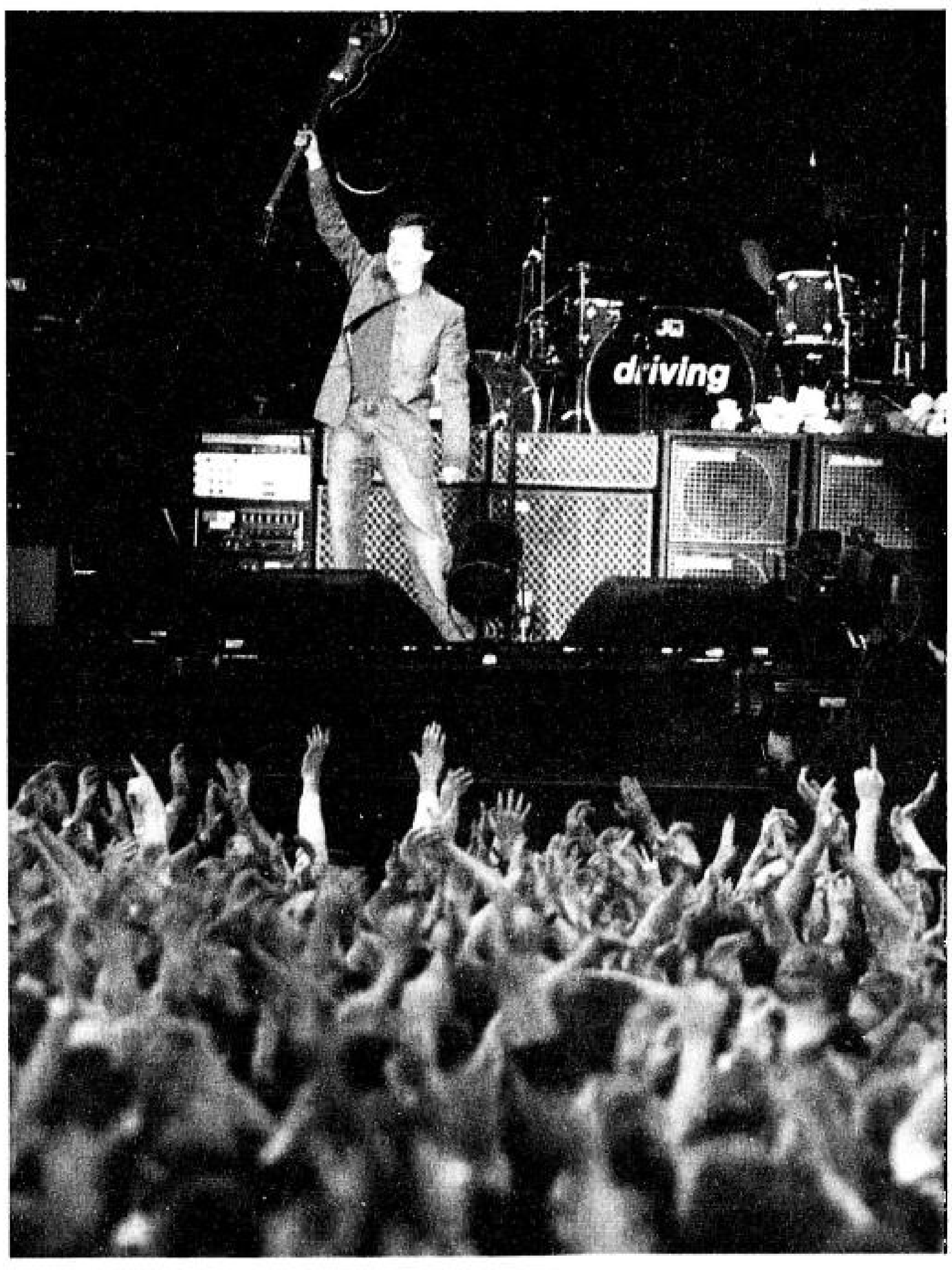
Series 6 of "The Practice" is being telecast on Wednesday at 10 p.m. and Thursday at 2 p.m.

Series 3 of "Angel" is being screened on Thursdays at 9 p.m. The series follows a centuries-old vampire "cursed" with a conscience (**David Boreanaz**) as he battles for the lives of innocents in Los Angeles, along with Cordelia Chase (**Charisma Carpenter**), whose visions direct them to people in danger.

'The Secret of My Success'

AT 9 p.m. June 8, the film on view on the Hallmark Channel is "The Secret of My Success," **Michael J. Fox's** hit starrer. Fox plays **Brantley Foster**, a well-educated kid from Kansas who has always dreamed of making it big in New York. Once he gets to the Big Apple, however, he realizes that jobs—and girls—are hard to get.

He's able to get a menial job in his uncle's company, but falls for a lovely, executive, so he pretends to be an executive himself to impress her—and things get riotously out of hand.



BEATLE COMES HOME

Sir Paul McCartney performs at what he called his "homecoming" concert in Liverpool, England, where he and the three other Beatles started more than 40 years ago. About 30,000 fans watched the final show in his world tour.

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MVP keeps top post at First Pacific

By Abigail L. Ho

MANUEL Pangilinan, executive chair of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., yesterday proved his detractors wrong when he retained his position as the conglomerate's top man beside rumored adversary, First Pacific heir-apparent Anthoni Salim.

However, Pangilinan had to relinquish his title as executive chair of the firm in favor of the managing director position, in compliance with new listing rules at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Under the new rules, a listed firm's chair could not serve as chief executive.

He now sits as managing director, and effectively chief executive officer, of First Pacific. Taking over the chair position is Salim in a non-executive capacity.

The First Pacific board decided to put Pangilinan at the helm after the question of who should run and lead the company was raised in earlier meetings.

It was decided that instead of being given the executive chair position, he should instead be appointed managing director and chief executive officer so that he could perform the tasks of running and leading the Hong Kong-based conglomerate.

"(Pangilinan) was appointed managing director and CEO, while Anthoni Salim was appointed non-executive chair. Thus, (Pangilinan) continues to run the show in FPC," a highly placed source said.

"I'm relieved and happy that everything's back tonormal here in Hon Kong. I actually welcome coming back to my old post. Anthoni should be chair anyway. We talked about it yesterday (June 1). It was fine with him and it was fine with me," Pangilinan said in a telephone interview.

Yesterday morning here in Manila, rumors were rife that Pangilinan would be booted out of the First Pacific board in favor of Michael Healy, First Pacific's newly resigned chief operating officer and finance officer.

When Pangilinan was staunchly opposing last year's takeover attempt on First Pacific subsidiary Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Healy and former First Pacific corporate secretary Ronald Brown were among his stiffest adversaries.

Pangilinan and the PLDT board were all blocking the takeover attempt while Brown and Healy, according to sources, were its firmest supporters. Brown and Healy have already resigned from the firm effective end-April.

Before Brown and Healy left, they reportedly formulated a two-pronged plan for First Pacific's planned regional expansion strategy together with Pangilinan.

Also during yesterday's annual general meeting in Hong Kong, First Pacific appointed two addi-

MVP/B2

UBS sees peso falling to 57 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO risks tumbling to a historic low of 57 against the US dollar by the end of this year due to the weakening of the country's external account, UBS Warburg Asia Ltd. has projected.

In its May 2003 Asian Economic and Strategy Perspectives newsletter, UBS Warburg said the recent cut in Philippine sovereign rating from BB+ to BB by Standard & Poor's had "reminded the market of the risk of holding this currency."

By next year, the investment house said the local currency would likely weaken further to 58 to the dollar.

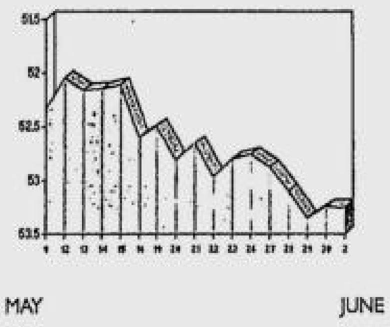
"The rating agency quoted worries over the deteriorating debt dynamics that have also prompted us to remain structurally bearish on the strength of the Philippine capital account," the UK-based investment house said.

As the depreciation is projected during the latter part of the year, UBS Warburg said the weighted average for the peso-dollar exchange rate would likely be at 53.62 to $1 by year's end.

The same report projected that the Philippines would incur a $1.5-billion trade deficit this year that will, in turn, cause a slowdown in the current account surplus to $1 billion from last year's $4.2 billion.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

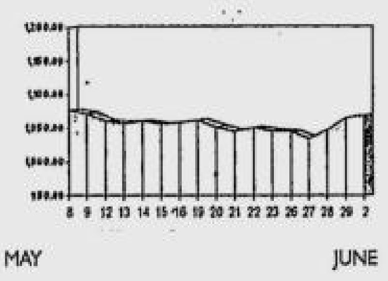
P 53.25 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 2, 2003

¥ 118.68 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 2, 2003

GOLD: $361.50-362.00
per ounce Hong Kong, June 2, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks cut 3-day rally

STOCKS led by Globe Telecom dropped yesterday as investors sold down select blue chips to lock in gains after a three-day rally.

Analysts, however, were hopeful the market would recover given the spate of positive economic and corporate news such as the number one power distributor Meralco getting approval to raise its electricity rates which will help ease the financial burden on the company.

"This is a slight correction. Globe Telecom broke through resistance level of P585 on Friday so now we have a retracing. Other major blue chips like Ayala Corp. and SM Prime also dropped," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The Philippine main index closed down 3.63 points or 0.34 percent at 1,070.06 points. Value turnover dropped 30 percent to P470.1 million from Friday's P669.2 million. Losers beat gainers 36 to 20. *Reuters*

Choose freedom.

No.1 Notebook Computer in the Philippines

Source: IDC Asia Pacific PC Tracker, Q4 2002

Toshiba recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business

Best Value Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor - M Based Notebook Computer
Satellite 2410-A622
(Part No: PS241L-5Y340)
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 1.80GHz-M supporting Enhanced Intel® SpeedStep® Technology
- 256MB PC2100 DDR SDRAM, expandable to 1024MB
- 30GB S.M.A.R.T. HDD with built-in HDD shock absorber
- NVIDIA GeForce 4 420 GO graphics with 32MB DDR VRAM
- 14.1" XGA TFT display
- Built in DVD-ROM Drive
- IEEE 1394, SD memory Slot
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition

P79,995

Satellite 2430-A620
(Part No: PS243L-0006ZT)
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.40GHz
- 256MB PC2100 DDR SDRAM
- 30GB S.M.A.R.T. HDD
- Modular Bay DVD-ROM Drive
- 14.1" XGA TFT display
- Wireless LAN 802.11b connectivity (optional)
- SD memory slot, USB 2.0 x 3, IEEE 1394
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional

P89,995

Satellite 2450-A750
(Part No: PS245L-03JDZ)
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.80GHz
- 40GB S.M.A.R.T. HDD
- 15.0" XGA TFT display
- Slim SelectBay DVD-R/RW/RAM Multi-function Drives
- Wireless LAN 802.11b connectivity (optional)
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition

P145,000

The Smartest Fusion of Notebook and Tablet PC
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- 256MB PC133 SDRAM, expandable to 1024MB
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- Integrated CompactFlash(CF), SD memory slot
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- Intel® 855PM chipset
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- Built-in SD memory card slot, USB 2.0 x 3
- Up to 5.4H (with optional 2nd battery up to 8.5H)
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 3-years International Limited Warranty

P130,000

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pentium 4

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Flexible and floating exchange rates

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

DUE to the heavy rain last week, I rang my wife to see if the house was flooded. A muffled voice said, "I don't know. I can't see a thing in this diving suit."

I was disappointed not to win an award from the INQUIRER. I sent in 10 puns, thinking that at least one would win a prize. No pun in ten did.

The Association of Bicycle Manufacturers has appointed me as their spokesman.

Due to the weak dollar, bar girls are now demanding payment in euros. Does anyone have 100 euros to spare? It's for a good cause.

Sir Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tensing climbed Mount Everest 50 years ago. Sir Edmund asked me to accompany him on an anniversary ascent but I told him I am not in peak condition. So he agreed that if I get tired, I can 'ave a rest. To summit up, I would go if I were a little boulder.

Here are some questions from the entrance exam of a prestigious American university:

If FEDEX and UPS merge, will they call the new company FED UP?

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

If an oriental rides on a carousel, does he get disoriented?

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

If a person who plays the piano is a pianist, is a man who drives a racing car a racist?

If lawyers are disbarred and priests defrocked, shouldn't electricians be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed and dry cleaners depressed?

I have just discovered why old people keep reading the Bible. They're cramming for their final exam.

In the English language, "I Am" is the shortest sentence. "I do" is the longest.

* * *

IN this article, I will discuss the advantages of having a floating, or in the case of the peso, a sinking rate of exchange. A few countries: China, Hong Kong and Malaysia have pegged their currencies to the almighty dollar and in the past couple of years they have benefited from this arrangement. However, they have strong governments, and in the case of China and Hong Kong, a large low-paid pool of labor. Malaysia relies heavily on advanced technology. However, it does not always work out.

Argentina pegged its currency to the US dollar but as its economy was weak, its exports increasingly non-competitive and its government inefficient, the exercise ended in total disaster. The official rate became unrealistic and a black market developed, effectively devaluing the currency. In the end, the situation became so untenable that the government closed all the banks, depriving people of their hard-earned savings. When, after a protracted period of rioting, the banks reopened, the currency had lost 75 percent of its value before staging a minor recovery. The IMF refused to give them the enormous amount required to repay their debts and let the economy collapse.

It is essential to allow market forces to determine exchange rates because of the difference in the strength of various countries' economies and also their rates of inflation. Instead of writing about hypothetical countries, let us consider the US and the Philippines. I understand that at one time, the Philippines was the second strongest economy in Asia, after Japan, and the US dollar was only 2 or 2.5 pesos. Then came a period of corruption and an outflow of massive amounts of money, never to be seen again.

Since I arrived here in 1980, two Presidents have been removed by People Power, but immense damage has been done and the peso has fallen from 7 to 53. President Macapagal-Arroyo inherited an appalling mess and although she is doing her best, it will take many years and several Presidents before corruption can be wiped out and the deficit eliminated. The growth of the economy, measured in terms of GDP, is between 4 percent and 5 percent this year, not at all bad compared with the US, Europe and most of the world. The P200-billion plus deficit is the killer and our foreign debt has reached a staggering P2.9 trillion and will exceed P3 trillion by yearend. That is why our debt has a low rating and yields are much higher than in the US.

If a decision had been made to peg the peso to the dollar, our economy would have disintegrated years ago. By allowing it to depreciate 7-fold over the years, we have managed to survive. Our weak currency helps our exports to remain competitive and, like most Asian countries, we are an export nation. If the peso had remained at 7, and assuming that our economy had somehow miraculously survived, our exports would be 7 times higher than all other Asian countries. Imagine trying to sell bananas and pineapples to Australia at 7 times what they would pay Thailand or Indonesia. Or to sell children's clothes to the UK at 7 times the current price. It would obviously be impossible and our exports would be zero.

There would be unimaginable unemployment and starvation. How would our imports fare? Gasoline would cost not P20 a liter but P150. Taximeters would start at P200 and a short jeepney ride would cost at least P20. The cost of medicine, already the highest in Asia, and about 10 times the cost in India, would be 7 times more. A simple pain tablet, PONSTAN, would cost P140 and antibiotics would be affordable only for the very rich. Even VIAGRA would set you back $75 or P3,800 a tablet. As for food, that has to be brought in from the provinces by trucks paying P150 a liter of gas, I leave you to work out what the inflation rate would be.

It is only by allowing the peso to find its own level that life goes on. The cheap peso makes it highly profitable to open call centers here, as the salaries paid to Filipinos in dollar terms is exceedingly attractive compared to employing US citizens. Similarly, office rents are very low, and with tax incentives included in the economic zone areas, it is profitable for foreign countries to operate here. OCWs are sought after, largely because they speak English, but also because the salaries they accept are high by Filipino standards but low by US standards. In America, a baby sitter gets $5 an hour, equivalent to our minimum daily wage!

Whether you like it or not, floating exchange rates keep world trade on an even keel and enable weaker countries to survive. There are implications as to the long-term future of the European Union but that's another story. mrbearbull@hotmail.com

$1-B Asian Bond Fund launched

SHINAWATRA

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday launched a $1-billion Asian Bond Fund (ABF) backed by 11 Asian economies which will focus on investing in regional government bonds.

The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand are the participating economies.

"Developed countries know how to use instruments to (create) capital but countries in Asia, the majority still don't have enough access to that kind of instrument yet. This is the first step," he told reporters at a news conference in the Thai capital.

The bond fund is the brainchild of the Thai premier, who has said he wanted to promote regional financial stability and minimize the risk of repeating the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis.

"Thailand is very proud to play a significant role in initiating and pushing for the success of the Asian Bond Fund," he said.

He said the fund will create prosperity for Asian countries, which hold more than half of the world's reserves, but focus most of their investment outside the region.

"Apart from returning investment to participating countries, we are creating an instrument to build prosperity for Asian countries. It's time for Asian countries to unite," he said.

A separate statement from the 11-member Executives' Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks Group, which is overseeing the fund setup, said the fund would invest in a basket of US-dollar denominated bonds issued by Asian sovereign and quasi-sovereign issuers in its economies, except for Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

"The fund will also provide a useful means for the Asian central banks to diversify their investments beyond the more traditional reserve assets and to enhance their returns." *AFP*

JG Summit to raise $100M

By Elena R. Torrijos

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc., the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, yesterday said it was exploring opportunities in the international capital markets for term financing.

JG Summit director for corporate planning BJ Sebastian yesterday said the company aimed to borrow, either through bonds or a loan, around $100 million to refinance a debt of the same amount maturing in December.

Sebastian said the borrowing would have a maturity of five years.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, JG Summit said investment bank JP Morgan was assisting the company in exploring the financing opportunities.

JG Summit earlier reported that its profit in the first quarter of this year jumped to P920.83 million from P590 million in the same period last year on the back of higher revenue and other income.

In 2002, the company's net income rose slightly to P2.357 billion from P2.309 billion the year before. Without one-time charges such as a P200-million asset write-down from the sale of the holding firm's stake in Toledo Power, net income on a recurring basis would have reached as much as P3.2 billion.

Tax reform measures seen disrupting auto firms' plans

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT'S move to reform automotive taxes has flustered the investment and marketing strategies of local vehicle assemblers and distorted their sales performance in the first five months this year.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. deputy marketing head Arnel Doria said assemblers could not push through with their respective investment and marketing plans because buyers were speculating that the new taxes would lead to lower prices of cars and higher prices for Asian utility vehicles.

Doria said the market share of passenger cars have shrunk to a record low 18 percent as of May as buyers postponed their purchases until the new taxes have kicked in where a sub-compact would be slapped only 3-percent tax compared to 15 percent at present. This is why Honda has yet to make a sale of its 2003 City and Accord models that it launched in the last four weeks because it wanted to peg the price based on the low rates of the new tax systems.

The speculation has likewise led to a spurt in sales of 10-seater vehicles (AUVs and sport utility vehicles) that were likely to have a price increase under the tax reforms.

Doria said the Honda CR-V, which was reclassified from an SUV to an AUV to escape taxes, has been the main beneficiary of the speculation as its sales jumped to more than 1,000 units and up to six months waiting time although the sales jump has come at the expense of plunging sales of the Civic and City sedans.

But Doria said the AUV surge was only temporary as sales of its CRV have already slowed to 800 a month with zero backlog in orders.

With the Senate unlikely to pass the automotive tax reforms this week, Doria said the industry might have to wait for a longer period before the excise tax bills get another shot at approval because Congress would have to work on other priorities such as the budget.

Doria said the industry's main concern during the long wait was to block the implementation of Revenue Regulation 4-2003 which Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said would take effect June 6 if no new tax laws were approved.

ICTSI acquires Baltic container port

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc., controlled by the Razon family, has signed last Friday the necessary documents to complete the company's acquisition of the Baltic Container Terminal (BCT) at Port of Gydnia from the Polish government.

BCT operates the terminal handling assets of the Gydnia port and has an exclusive lease contract to operate the terminal for 20 years.

ICTSI will pay about $41 million to the Gydnia Port Authority for BCT. The initial down payment was made last week with the balance to be paid in four equal quarterly payments over a one-year period.

The company said it would spend $80 million for terminal improvement over the life of the concession.

ICTSI said the infusion of investments into the terminal would begin immediately with focus on people, IT systems and equipment.

ICTSI Ltd. senior vice president Thomas Falknor said the annual rated capacity at BCT would be increased from 350,000-400,000 twenty-foot equivalent units to around 700,000 TEUs.

Earlier, ICTSI president Enrique Razon said ICTSI was eyeing other port management deals in Beirut, Angola, Kenya, Iraq and other areas in the Middle East and Africa. *Elena R. Torrijos*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As Monday, of June 2, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16	16	15.75	15.75	16,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	37	37.5	37	37	1,253,900
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24	24	24	156,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	25.5	25.5	1,277,400
Philippine National Bank	19	19	18.75	18.75	605,900
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
Security Bank Corp.	10	10	10	10	26,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	12,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1425	1425	1425	1425	1,700
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1070	1060	1070	3,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	47,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,880,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	610	595	600	162,530
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.038	2,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,520,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	190,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	432.5	440	432.5	437.5	197,480
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	2,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.6	115,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.2	9.9	9.2	9.9	1,655,000
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	2,735,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	273,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.46	25,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	15,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	400,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	776,900
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	24,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63.5	63	63.5	39,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	223,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	2,000
Ayala Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.3	13,520,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	176,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	33,000,000
APC Group Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.84	·1.9	354,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.28	13,520,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	330,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	428,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	7.6	8.2	7.6	7.9	504,000
Ionics Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	79,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	10,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	20,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	210,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	2,110,000
Music Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.72	32,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	196,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	500,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
Mondragon Int'l Phils Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	160,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.42	0.47	0.42	0.47	4,060,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	254,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	1,047,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	90,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.135	0.115	0.13	1,900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.84	2,120,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	260,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.7	4.75	7,166,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	15,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	90,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	190,000

DISCLOSURES

CITYLAND Development Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.0507 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 24.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. were Anselmo Trinidad Jr., Antonio Ong, Roberto Macasaet Jr., Raul Leopando, David Go, Carlos Syquia, Guillermo Luz, Roberto Atendido and Roberto San Jose.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Basic Consolidated Inc. were Oscar de Venecia, Sergio Locsin, Oscar de Venecia Jr., Ramon Mapa, Isidoro Tan, Prudencio Somera Jr., Ramon Mayuga, Francis Chua, Reynaldo Nograles, Rufino Antonio Mijares and Roberto Malonzo.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.16 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 26.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Ionics Inc. were Lawrence Qua, Edgardo del Fonso, Corazon dela Paz, Jan Doets, Virginia Judy Dy, Guillermo Luchangco, Meliton Qua, Raymond Qua, Leonardo Siguion-Reyna and Yang Tah Lu.

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 2 p.m. at the Manansala C & D, 4/F of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 2, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.849113	1.000000	53.230000
Japan	Yen	0.007116	0.008380	0.446100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.388724	1.635500	87.057700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108882	0.128230	6.825700
Switzerland	Franc	0.653666	0.769823	40.977700
Canada	Dollar	0.621332	0.731743	38.950700
Singapore	Dollar	0.490307	0.577434	30.736800
Australia	Dollar	0.553276	0.651593	34.684300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.252468	2.652731	141.204900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226424	0.266660	14.194300
Brunei	Dollar	0.488895	0.575772	30.648300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000120	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020348	0.023964	1.275600
UAE	Dirham	0.231196	0.272279	14.493400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.177700	62.689000

INTEREST RATES

June 02, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 2-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 30-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.1539	7.2115
3 Months	7.1	7.1731
6 Months	7.6746	7.6865
1 Year	8.1846	8.2135
2 Years	8.9	8.8577
3 Years	9.7904	9.7385
4 Years	10.4212	10.3519
5 Years	10.8673	10.7827
7 Years	11.4173	11.3173
10 Years	11.6769	11.5365
20 Years	12.0932	12.0841
25 Years	12.5423	12.5769

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

MVP keeps top post . . .

From page B1

tional independent non-executive and one non-executive director, also in compliance with revised listing rules there.

The revised rules required that not less than a third of a company's board of directors must be independent.

Following the resignation of directors Michael Healy and Ronald Brown, eight of the company's directors continued their terms, including Pangilinan, Salim, Sutanto Djuhar, Tedy Djuhar, Ibrasim Risjad, David Tang, Edward Tortoricci and Edward Chen.

Newly appointed directors include Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario and former senior partner at Richard Butler law firm Robin Nicholson as independent non-executive directors. Commissioner of various Salim firms Benny Santoso, on the other hand, was appointed non-executive director.

"In many respects, today represents a new beginning for First Pacific. We have successfully addressed numerous issues that surrounded the company last year, and I look forward to working with my team in First Pacific as we execute the plans and strategies the board of directors has set out for us," Pangilinan said.

First Pacific posted $40 million in profits in 2002.

Thai prime minister calls for free, fair trade

KHON KAEN, Thailand—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday urged Asia Pacific countries to promote not only free but also fair trade, and expressed hope that their combined efforts could overcome the disastrous effect of SARS on business and tourism.

"I think SARS itself is not as (bad) as the fear of SARS. The fear of SARS is outrageous," Thaksin told reporters after opening a two-day meeting of trade ministers of the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

He said he was confident the countries affected by severe acute respiratory syndrome "will be able to contain the epidemic by the end of this month" and that their economies will recover by end of August.

In his speech to open the ministerial meeting, Thaksin noted that the International Monetary Fund has lowered the global economic growth forecast from 3.7 percent to 3.2 percent for 2003 because of the SARS epidemic and the Iraq war.

"Although (the) world economy is at a slowdown, I truly believe in the potential and spirits of Apec cooperation in solving these current problems in the regional as well as global" forums, Thaksin said.

The 21-member APEC is a consultative forum and not a negotiating platform, but it's aim is to increase free trade and reduce barriers.

Thaksin said Apec must play an active role in strengthening the multilateral trading system and the World Trade Organization, but not at the expense of the poor.

"Apec should promote not only free trade but also fair trade, especially in agricultural trade. Attempts should be made to reduce the prices to consumers and eliminate farmers' poverty," he said.

Thaksin cited the example of his government, which he claimed had strengthened the domestic economy from a grass-roots level.

Thaksin said incomes of people in villages and of farmers increased by 19 percent last year, as the country's economy grew by 5.2 percent in 2002, the highest growth rate since the 1997 financial crisis.

The ministerial meeting in this northeastern town, in preparation for the Apec leaders' summit in Bangkok in October, is expected to endorse an emergency plan on reviving trade and tourism affected by SARS, which has killed 770 people worldwide.

The plan focuses on making health screening effective and uniform in the region without hindering the movement of tourists. It also involves seeking the help of businesses in fighting SARS.

The details of the plan will be released Tuesday.

Apec includes places hardest hit by SARS including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and Canada.

The other members are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

According to the Asian Development Bank, the economic growths of Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan this year are expected to decline by 1.8 percentage points, 1.1 points and 0.9 of a point respectively, if the impact of SARS extends until the end of June.

With a combined population of more than 2.5 billion, Apec generates gross domestic product of $19 trillion, or 47 percent of international commerce. *AP*

MINISTERS attending the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting pose at a group photograph with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, center, at a hotel in Khon Kaen, Thailand, June 2. The Ministers are from left; Mexico Minister for the Economy Fernando Clariond, unidentified, Thai Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik, Russia Deputy Minister of Economic and Trade Roald Piskoppel, Singapore Minister of Trade and Industry George Yeo, Chile Acting Minister of Trade Cristian Barros, Taiwan Minister for Economic Affairs Yi-Fu Lin and Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce and Technology Tang Yingyen. AP

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4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500,000	450,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		130,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8.	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000	320,000
10.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
11.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200.00
12.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,290,000
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20.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	135,000
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RP asks Korea to lower duties on copper, fruits

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will ask Korea to lower duties on the country's exports of copper and fruits. It will also ask Korea's flagship carrier, Korean Air, to set up a call center in the country.

Roxas, who is part of the President's three-day state visit to Korea, said in a statement that the government would formally ask Korea to grant the Philippines similar tariff perks it extended to Chile under a Free Trade Agreement that the two countries signed in October last year.

The Korea-Chile agreement stipulated that Korea would bring down its duty on Chilean copper cathodes from 5 percent to 0 within the next seven years.

Roxas said the tax reduction would have an adverse effect on Philippine copper cathodes that are levied 5 percent duty because it could spur higher imports from Chile at the expense of other countries like the Philippines.

Chile accounts for 60 percent of Korea's total copper cathode imports or double the market share of Philippine copper.

Korea is currently the second biggest export market for Philippine copper cathodes next to China.

Roxas said the government has likewise asked the Korean government to further lower its tariffs on bananas, currently hovering at 30 percent from a high of 50 percent five years ago.

Roxas said Philippine banana exporters still found Korea's tariffs too high despite the cutback when stacked against the duties of other banana importing countries such as China (13 percent and expected to fall to 10 percent in 2004), Taiwan (12.5 percent), Japan (between 10 and 20 percent) and the US (1.4 percent).

On top of greater trade access, Roxas said he would also lobby for Korean Air (owned by the Hanjin group) to choose the Philippines as its site for a $5 million in-house call center facility.

The project will require 200 English-speaking agents to handle service calls from Asia and Oceania and eventually the rest of the world on a 24-hour basis.

Korean Air is still choosing between China and a South East Asian country as the site of its call center, its fifth after Los Angeles, Seoul, Dublin and Tokyo.

Roxas was optimistic that the call center would be one of many business processes, such as auditing and accounting, that Korea Air could outsource from the Philippines.

The President will fly to Japan on June 5 for a two-day working visit.

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Bill seeks payment for pre-need planholders

By Abigail L. Ho

SENATE President Franklin Drilon has filed a bill in the Senate that sought to compensate pre-need plan holders in case pre-need companies go bankrupt.

In a statement issued yesterday, Drilon said a number of pre-need firms during recent years had "fallen into financial trouble because of injudicious investments and other wrongful practices, endangering the hard-earned investments of family heads out to assure the future needs of members of their families."

Under Drilon's proposed Senate Bill No. 447, a Plan Holders Protection Fund would be set up to compensate pre-need plan holders for losses and damages that they would suffer should certain pre-need companies close down or declare bankruptcy.

The bill also provides for the creation of an industry trust fund that will be administered and managed by an authorized bank.

At least 10 percent of this fund, but not less than P500,000, would be maintained as a Liquidity Reserve Fund.

Another 10 percent of the total trust fund amount, on the other hand, would be earmarked for loans to countryside and business enterprises as well as for the government's low-cost housing programs.

The Insurance Commission would also be given supervisory and regulatory authority over pre-need plan companies to ensure that neither the company nor the plan holder would take advantage of their contract.

The IC would serve as the neutral party between a pre-need firm and its plan holders to ensure that all terms and conditions in their contracts are "fair and equitable to both."

"With the proliferation of pre-need companies, it has become necessary to regulate their activities and assure their liquidity and solvency for the protection of the public," Drilon said in his explanatory note.

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Tourism developer to invest ₱100M

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Rajah Group of Companies (RGC), one of the country's top developers of tourism facilities, has committed to invest some P100 million in the construction of a world-class convention and exhibit center in this freeport zone.

This was announced recently by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo after signing a memorandum of agreement with Rajah Group of Companies (RGC) president Alejandra Clemente on the expansion projects of the Subic International Hotel (SIH).

"Subic Freeport will be one of the country's top economic catalysts once its travel and trade industries have been fully exploited," Payumo said.

As approved by the SBMA board last month, Clemente, representing the SIH Corp., has been commissioned to beef up the business activities within the freeport by building its first and biggest convention and exhibit center.

"The project is estimated to capture the Asia-Pacific region's hefty meeting and convention market," the board said.

"Subic Bay is one of the country's best tourism attractions and investment sites. The construction of a convention center will positively enhance it as a regional travel and trade hub," the board said.

Clemente said these markets would increase tourism traffic to SBFZ.

"The ongoing construction of a highway to link Clark and Subic will further complement the project," she said.

The convention center will take the place of the SIH's former laundry building next to the duty free shop clusters. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

RP coco oil exports rose in May

COCONUT oil exports of the Philippines, the world's largest shipper, rose 88 percent in May year-on-year as expected due to a spillover of trade from April.

"During the Iraq war, exporters experienced difficulties in securing bottoms (ships)," Danilo Coronacion, administrator of the state's Philippine Coconut Authority, told Reuters on Monday. "Exporters were also paying a high premium on insurance costs."

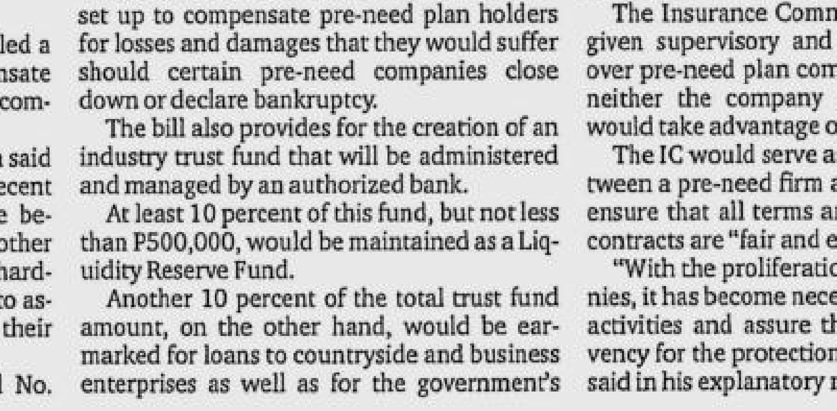
Traders said on Monday they expected the Philippines to ship about 70,000 tons in June.

Preliminary data showed coconut oil exports surged to 148,000 tons in May from actual shipments of 78,658 tons in the same month of 2002, the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines Inc. said in an earlier report.

Shipments in May were also more than three times larger than the revised 43,265 tons moved in April, the same report said.

The preliminary numbers for May bring to 450,769 tons the total volume exported in the first five months of the year—a 14 percent rise from the 394,399 tons in the same period of last year.

Major buyers of coconut oil—which is used in aviation lubrications, cosmetics, detergent, soap and margarine—include the United States and Europe. *Reuters*



TRADERS expect the Philippines to ship about 70,000 tons of coconut oil in June

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BMW

'03 A/T WELL MAINTAINED Dark Gray P415T ALL ORIG. Call 09198616103

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : May 9, 2003
Reference No. : ____________

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp03.LSRP.VI-0004, Schedule I**
   Title : **Construction, Erection and Installation of 230kV & 138kV Substation Equipment for Ormoc Substation**
   Location : **Ormoc City (Visayas)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, revamping, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230kV & 138kV Ormoc Substation. The work also includes construction of substation equipment foundation, warehouse, pumphouse, installation of cable trays and cable trench.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P28,970,870.00 from the Internal Cash Generation of the National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars issued by IAC:
   Size Range : **Medium 'Sub-Category B' Specialty Electrical Works**
   License Category : **A 'Specialty: Electrical Works'**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible bidders shall be invited by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer to be contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 21, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **Eight Hundred Pesos (P800.00) per copy.**
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. of **June 21, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office with address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the TransCo's List of Registered Contractors who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) W. SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 23, 28 & June 3, 2003)

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

1995 MITSUBISHI LANCER GLI, BEIGE COLOR OWNER-DRIVEN, PRICE NEGOTIABLE CALL 631-9954 BETWEEN 6-9PM ONLY

OTHER CAR BRANDS

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CARS FOR RENT

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NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2278 • 426-4084

A.TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/RENTAL 8006595

Bnew Vans 8254058 8261045

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

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CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1HR FastCarLoan 7126202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 8870400

2% w/oTaking Car 3650074/75

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8966633/30

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

DEFECT TV/A'CON 7325865

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

MAID YAYA LABA 7462906

Secretary Computer Literate •037-8649/8651•

MALE/FEMALE

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 6212773 4043528 6280730

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

*DIRECT HIRE *
OFC MKTG STAFF START ASAP M/F 18-45 9134470 MS.KONICA

Direct hire Mktg Personnel 18-45 Coll grad/level w/ w/o exp #4370454 Ms. Shie

•DIRECT HIRE•
OFC MKTG STAFF/PERSONNEL 18-45 w,w/o exp 9121488 Angel

MKTG STF 09167054572 ECHO

Mngt Staff 09186532375 Ana

OFC MKTG PERSONEL DIRECT HIRE CALL 9134470 OLGA

RESTO BAR HIRING
(1) OPERATION MANAGER
- Male
- 2Yrs Experience
- Presentable / Optimist
- Good Customer Relation
- Cainta Area / 5PM-2AM

(1)FILIPINO COOK
- Male
- 2-3Yrs Experience
- Cainta Area / 4PM-1:30AM

(4) WAITRESSES
- Female
- 18 to 23Yrs
- Charming / 1Yr Experience

Call: 687-8726
Look for Minnie Mon-Sat

Stay-In SECRETARY good in math for Bataan & Batangas Hog Farm T3633080

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of October and November 2002 on JUNE 15, 2003, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Juanita Babar was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc. # 534, Page 72, Book I, Series 2003 of Notary Public Renon Rivera of Paranaque (PDI-May 20, 27&June 3,2003)

FOR LEASE

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Area size : 250–500m²

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD 2003-002

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	ABC
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 10, 2003, 10:00 AM		
A1 1 LOT	POLE LINE HARDWARES	PLW02-0045	P 20,609,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 10, 2003; 2:00 PM		
A2 1 LOT	JO SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS AND EQUIPT. FOR REPAIR OF COOLING TOWER FAN BLADES	3MAK02-600	P 1,200,000.00
A3 1 LOT	MARINE PLAYWOODS STAINLESS SCREW NAILS, HEAVY DUTY LUMBER, SPIRAL NOZZLE TARGET	3MAK03-0134	P 7,691,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2003; 9:00 AM		
B1 1 LOT	INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE & LOCAL AREA NETWORK	MCF02-0476	P 6,300,000.00
B2 1 LOT	PLACEMENT PARTS FOR TURBINE VALVES	MCF02-0709	P 2,000,000.00
B3 2 UNITS	SUBMERSIBLE PUMP	MCF02-0756	P 1,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2003; 2:00 PM		
B4 1 LOT	DRAG CHAIN CONVEYOR	MCF02-0714	P 9,000,000.00
B5 1 LOT	MAJOR OVERHAULING OF MCFTPP UNIT 1	MCF02-0725	JY 65,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 17, 2003; 2:00 PM		
C1 1 LOT	PARTS FOR CONDENSATE PUMP "YOSHIKURA"	2BCF02-0633	P 2,307,000.00
C2 1 LOT	PRESSURE REDUCING & SHUT OFF VALVE ASSY	2BCF02-0682	P 2,200,000.00
C3 1 LOT	IDD FLAME SCANNER DETECTOR ASSY	2BCF023-0043	P 600,000.00
	FLAME INTERNAL AMP ASSY	2BCF03-0046	P 1,700,000.00
	REGULATED POWER SUPPLY	2BCF03-0056	P 300,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 22, 2003; 2:00 PM		
C4 1 LOT	JO REHABILITATION OF BCFTPP BUNKHOUSE	2BCF02-0819	P 923,000.00
C5 1 LOT	ASSORTED WIRE ROPES	2BCF03-0105	P 1,217,000.00
C6 1 LOT	INSTALLATION OF FIVE THOUSAND (5000) PCS CONDENSER TUBE INSERTS	2BCF03-0022	P 3,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 23, 2003; 10:00 AM		
D1 4 UNITS	AIR DRYER ASSEMBLY	3BAC03-0014	P 800,000.00
D2 5 PCS	AXIAL EXPANSION JOINTS "INOFLEX" OR EQUIV	3BAC03-0069	P 5,857,425.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 23, 2003; 2:00 PM		
D3 3 PCS	TEMPERATURE SWITCHES	3BAC03-0124	P 1,110,000.00
D4 1 LOT	TACHOMETERS, PHASE MAKERS, SENSOR MONITORS "SHINKAWA" OR EQUIV	3BAC03-0013	P 4,622,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 24, 2003; 2:00 PM		
E1 1 LOT	STUFFING BOX "EBARA"	5LGP03-0078	P 1,800,000.00
E2 1 LOT	SPARES FOR COOLING TOWER "MARLEY" 301 CLASS III	5LGP03-0083	P 6,540,000.00
E3 1 LOT	OVERSPEED PROTECTION RELAY "BENTLY NEVADA" AND CONTROL CABLE	5LGP03-0108	P 5,735,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 29, 2003; 10:00 AM		
F1 1 LOT	PARTS FOR HOT WELL PUMP "YOSHIKURA"	3TIW02-0133	P 15,057,000.00
F2 1 LOT	GAS CIRCUIT BREAKER INC'L. COMMISSIONING & TESTING	3TIW03-0003	P 15,000,000.00
	DATE OF BIDDING JULY 29, 2003; 2:00 PM		
F3 1 LOT	REFURBISHMENT OF TGPP POWER TRANSFORMERS	3TIW02-0089	P 26,800,000.00
F4 1 LOT	UPGRADING AND ON LINE DIAGNOSTIC OF "BENTLY NEVADA" T/G SUPERVISORY INSTRUMENTS	3TIW02-0052	P 21,000,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

A1	JUNE 25, 2003, 10:00 AM	A2	JUNE 25, 2003; 2:00 PM
A3	JUNE 25, 2003, 3:00 PM	B1	JULY 02, 2003, 9:00 AM
B2	JULY 02, 2003, 10:00 AM	B4	JULY 02, 2003, 2:00 PM
B5	JULY 02, 2003, 3:00 PM	C1	JULY 03, 2003, 9:00 AM
C2	JULY 03, 2003, 10:00 AM	C3	JULY 03, 2003; 11:00 AM
C4	JULY 03, 2003, 2:00 PM	C6	JULY 03, 2003, 3:00 PM
D2	JULY 08, 2003, 10:00 AM	D4	JULY 08, 2003, 11:00 AM
E1	JULY 09, 2003, 10:00 AM	E2	JULY 09, 2003, 11:00 AM
F1	JULY 15, 2003, 10:00 AM	F2	JULY 15, 2003, 11:00 AM
F2	JULY 15, 2003, 2:00 PM	F4	JULY 15, 2003; 3:00 PM

Complete sets of Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel No. 9212618/9245282 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on June 09, 2003. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit- One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee- One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond- Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI – June 3 & 11, 2003)

WANTED
L-300 VAN DRIVER
Qualifications:
1. 25-35 yrs. Old
2. Residing in Pasig or near the place

Apply with bio-data, 1x1 picture, NBI clearance, Driver's license at:

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109 Shaw Blvd.
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10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon only

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Is in need of
FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Female, Excellent Sales Communication Skills,
Experienced, Part/Full Time
Up to P30T monthly income
Bring Biodata, Mon-Sat, 11:00 a.m. onwards
G/F Estuar Bldg., 41 Timog Avenue,
Quezon City
Tel. No. 374-7011 to 13

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Morgue & Facilities

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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

EMERENCIANA B. CAMPO

22 May 1908 – 31 May 2003
Peacefully joined her Creator on 31 May 2003
after receiving the Holy Sacrament

Her bereaved children, **Carmencita (Nenen)** and **Eduardo ALFONSO**, **Lilia** and **Aquilino (Jun) OPEÑA**, **Guillermo, Jr. (Bill)** and **Eva CAMPO**, **Omega (Meg)** and **Socrates JULIA**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at 588 General Luna Street, Poblacion, Talisay City, Cebu.

Interment will be on Sunday, 8 June 2003 at the Talisay City Catholic Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Teresa de Avila Parish Church, Talisay City.

"Death is swallowed up in victory... thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:54b, 57

We request you to join us in prayer as we, the family of

Juan Antonio Carrion y Saiz

Who peacefully passed away last Tuesday, May 27, 2003 at the age of 76, Celebrate his journey home in the Grace of his beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his children **Katrina, Maristella, Carmilla,** and **Arnel**; sister **Mari Juana**; grandchildren **BJ, Pep, Sunshine, Rafa, Beia, Melissa, Caroline,** and **Gabriella.**

We wish to request friends and relatives to join us in a special mass at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park on Thursday, June 5, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

The Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of the
Forex Family of Companies

wish to extend their deepest sympathies to the family of

TEODORO M. CARIÑO, JR.

"Uncle Mac"
Of Cauayan, Isabela
Chairman

who peacefully joined our Creator on Saturday, the 31st of May 2003 at the age of 52 in Anaheim, California, U.S.A.

Funeral service and interment details will be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

OSCAR A. MISA

who joined his Creator on May 25, 2003 at the age of 55

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

"Pour out your heart before Him; God is refuge for us." Psalm 62:8

ANGELES GONZAGA VASQUEZ

March 1, 1933 – May 28, 2003

Her memory will always be remembered by her husband **Jose**; children **Amanda** (†) & **Sean**, **Mela** (†) & **Joel**, **Maricor** & **Chipit**, **Reggie** & **Leah**, **Ronnie** & **Matet**, **Allen**, **T-Pee** and her grandchildren.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2003 at the Bacolod Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Queen of Peace Church.

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Acquisition of the following FDC Equipment:

Equipment	Quantity	Approved Budget
Oxygen Permeation Analyzer	1	P 850,000.00
Turbidimeter	1	300,000.00
Gas Chromatograph & Accessories	1	3,500,000.00
Kjeldahl Digestion Unit & Accessories	1	600,000.00
TOTAL		P 5,250,000.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

June 3 -18, 2003	Issuance and Submission of Registration Requirements
June 4 - 19, 2003	Notification of Registered Bidders
June 20 & 23, 2003	Issuance of Bid Documents
June 25, 2003 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference
July 8, 2003 (9:00-10:30 AM)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals
(10:45 AM)	Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals

Registration and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 3 & 9, 2003)

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By Residents of U.P. Orthodontic
Post Graduate Program
FREE ASSESSMENT !!!
FOR APPOINTMENT,
Contact CONNIE at 253-13-14
0917-3629858

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED AND EMPTY STEEL DRUMS

"as is, where is and take all"
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 19, 2003, AT 2:00 PM

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the drums at the following locations:

LOCATION	QUANTITY	FLOOR PRICE
1. BASCO Diesel Plant	348 pcs.	P15,225.00 / lot
2. BOAC Diesel Plant	101 pcs.	4,425.00 / lot
3. CALAPAN Diesel Plant	667 pcs.	29,173.00 / lot
4. CALAYAN Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
5. CASIGURAN Diesel Plant	150 pcs.	65,275.00 / lot
6. ITBAYAN Diesel Plant	15 pcs.	650.00 / lot
7. TORRIJOS Diesel Plant	5 pcs.	225.00 / lot
8. AGUTAYA Diesel Plant	180 pcs.	7,875.00 / lot
9. ARACELI Diesel Plant	410 pcs.	17,925.00 / lot
10. BALABAC Diesel Plant	200 pcs.	8,750.00 / lot
11. BROOKES POINT Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
12. BUSUANGA Diesel Plant	51,620 pcs.	2,258,375.00 / lot
13. CAGAYANCILLO Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot
14. CULION Diesel Plant	409 pcs.	17,900 / lot
15. CUYO Diesel Plant	12,752 pcs.	557,900.00 / lot
16. EL NIDO Diesel Plant	1,510 pcs.	66,075.00 / lot
17. LINAPACAN Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot
18. NARRA Diesel Plant	688 pcs.	30,100 / lot
19. PUERTO PRINCESA Diesel Plant	109 pcs.	4,775.00 / lot
20. ROXAS Diesel Plant	280 pcs.	12,250.00 / lot
21. SAN VICENTE Diesel Plant	479 pcs.	20,950.00 / lot
22. TAYTAY Diesel Plant	21 pcs.	925.00 / lot
23. PALANAN Diesel Plant	282 pcs.	12,350 / lot
24. LUBUAGAN Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
25. SABTANG Diesel Plant	30 pcs.	1,325.00 / lot
26. MAMBURAO Diesel Plant	142 pcs.	6,200.00 / lot
27. ROMBLON Diesel Plant	70 pcs.	3,075.00 / lot
28. MARINAWA Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of June 19, 2003 at Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, NPC, Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and read publicly. For the bid form at P50.00 per set, additional information and for inspection permit, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call tel. no. 922-84-31 or 9245-384. Inquiries may also be addressed to Mr. G.S. ALPAJORA, Manager-SPUG Luzon Operations, 4th Floor, NPC Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila with tel. no. 527-48-09 / Mr. E.A. VELOSO, Manager-SPUG Visayas Operations, 3rd Floor, Martinez Bldg., Jones Ave. Cebu City with tel. no. (032) 253-31-94 / Mr. A.H. ALSREE, Manager-SPUG Mindanao Operations Sto. Niño Drive, Pulik Road, Tumaga, Zamboanga City with tel. no. (062) 991-27-57. Deadline for the issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m. June 18, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/ reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department:

(Sgd.) F.B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI–June 2, 3 & 4, 2003)

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Lucio Tan gets Doctor of Humanities degree from UOG

LUCIO Tan, adopted son and ambassador of goodwill of this Western Pacific island, received an honorary doctorate degree in Humane Letters (Humanities) from the University of Guam (UOG) during colorful commencement rites last June 1.

Dr. Harold Allen, UOG president, and Ronald Leach, chair of the UOG Board of Regents, conferred the honorary title to Dr. Tan in recognition of his achievements and valuable contributions to higher education in the Philippines, Guam and the Asia Pacific Region.

Nearly 200 guests from the Philippines, which include Dr. Tan's immediate family, friends and colleagues from the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, flew in to witness the graduation rites. Also present were the island's top officials led by Gov. Felix Camacho, Guam's US Congress Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, members of Guam's legislature, Thomas Calvo of the UOG Endowment Foundation Inc., and Archbishop Anthony Aturon.

Speaking before a capacity crowd at the 4,000-seater UOG Field House, Dr. Tan recalled the war years and the difficulties his family encountered while running and hiding from invading conquerors. "I started life as poor as a rat. But the hardships I had to survive gave me the first solid bridge in my life," he told some 400 members of the UOG graduating classes of Fall 2002 and Spring 2003.

Now on his 30th year of doing business in Guam, Dr. Tan said his group of companies does not exist simply to make profit but to provide employment, create a better quality of life for the people and to invest more in education. "This is important because the hope of my generation lies in educating the youth," he stressed.

At a thanksgiving he hosted shortly after the conferment, Dr. Tan was honored through a standing ovation by some 500 guests in recognition of his concern and generosity towards Guam and its people. Gov. Camacho cited, in particular, Dr. Tan's donation of some US$400,000 worth of distilled drinking water to Guam's public schools and charitable institutions after super typhoon Pongsona devastated the island in December 2002. He also thanked Dr. Tan for his continuing support to the University of Guam which will receive a US$1 million donation to expand and rebuild its Student Center Building. The pledge was made through the UOG Endowment Foundation Inc.

This is the secondary doctorate for Tan who, in 2001, was conferred a Doctor in Applied Agriculture degree (honoris causa) by the Central Luzon State University in the Philippines. In November last year, he was named Guam ambassador-at-large and was admitted to the Ancient Order of the Chamorri for his contributions to the island's economy and support during times of calamities.

NOKIA TALKS WITH YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ORGANIZATION
Mobile phone leader Nokia discussed brand building with the Young Entrepreneurs Organization at a recently held forum in Greenbelt, Makati. In attendance were members of the organization and Nokia mobile phones country general manager Parikshit Bhasin who shared that 'by making phones that adapt to your lifestyle, the Nokia brand has become a symbol of not only cutting-edge technology, but of user-friendliness, simplicity and style.' The event also included a talk on building brands and a screening of the best local and foreign commercials of all time. Showcased also were Nokia's latest phones, which included the Nokia 2100, Nokia 3650, Nokia 7250, Nokia 6800, and Nokia 8910i. Photo shows (from left) Nokia mobile phones head for product marketing Jouni Halme, Young Entrepreneurs Organization membership head Lisa Gokongwei, Nokia mobile phones country general manager Parikshit Bhasin and Vince Tanjutco of Creative Concepts Inc.

Citi on the Road earns raves in Metro Manila

CITIBANK Installment Loan's advocacy campaign, dubbed Citi on the Road, capped a successful first quarter with the conclusion of its initial offering of life enhancing seminars entitled Smart Parenting 101. With celebrity couple Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan as spokespersons, hundred of parents have been enlightened on the modern yet practical ways in raising and providing a sound future for their children.

"We are overwhelmed with the response from the participants, and we are thankful to Citibank for providing the venue for us to reach fellow parents who are eager to guide their children to a better tomorrow," says Anthony.

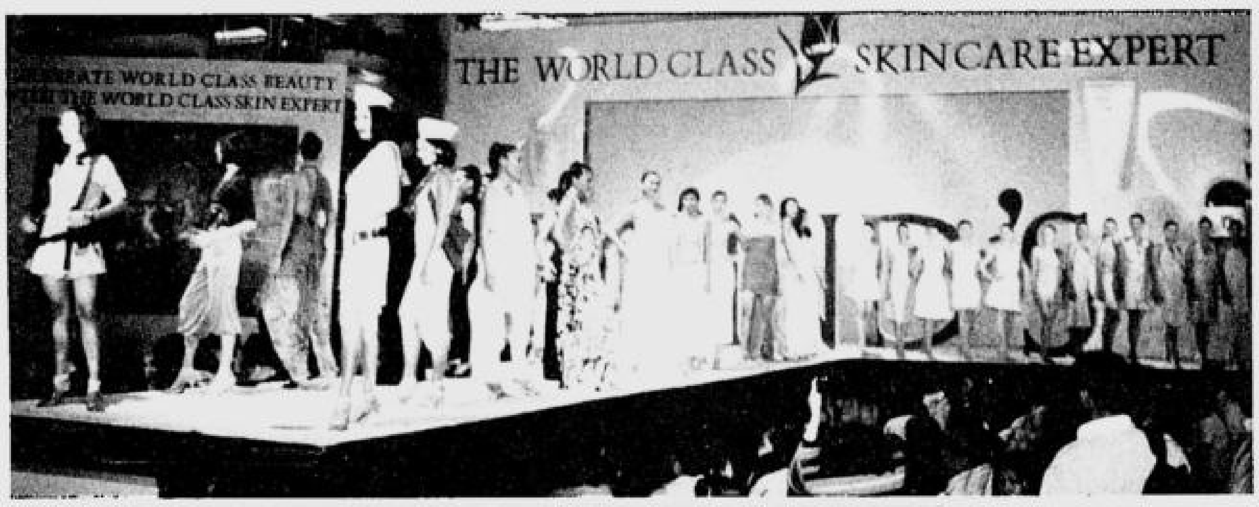
The Pangilinan's made rounds of several schools in Metro Manila beginning February, drawing crowds wherever they go. Goldilocks Bakeshop generously provided healthy snacks to the participants.

Citi on the Road was launched to better serve Citibank's customers, even non-customers, by providing them up-to-date information on how to cope with life's demands - be it at home or at the office.

In Smart Parenting 101, Anthony and Maricel shared true-to-life experiences that parents easily related to - from balancing work and quality time with the family to instilling values to children.

Aside from the lifestyle talks, Citi on the Road also presented participants novel ways to cope with growing expenses that go along with raising children. One option is to tap Citibank Installment Loan, a unique facility offered by the country's largest foreign bank. Citibank Installment Loan empowers borrowers to meet their various financial needs through generous loan proceeds beginning at P15,000. No collateral or deposit is needed to apply for a loan. Plus the applicant can receive the cash in soon as seven working days after completing the requirements. For inquiries, call 423-3333.

With the initial success of Citi on the Road, everyone can look forward to another series of inspiring lectures soon to break ground as Citibank stands firm in its commitment in enhancing the lives of its customers.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POND'S CELEBRATES THE WORLD-CLASS BEAUTY OF THE FILIPINA
World-class skin care expert, Pond's Institute, marked the celebration of the world-class beauty of the Filipina through a whole day event inspired by beauty, fashion and music at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City. The event featured activities that included the Pond's Beauty Prep Zone Consultation tour and a program highlighted by a Pond's-inspired fashion show by famed designers. Coinciding with the upcoming Ms Philippines 2003 pageant, the event also celebrated the world-class beauty of this year's candidates. The winner of which will represent the country to vie for the International Miss Earth title. The Pond's Beauty Prep Zone Consultation tour started off the event for the day. Experts in beauty, style and skin care were also brought together. Former beauty queens Abbygale Arenas, Gem Padilla, renowned beauty consultant Olen Lim together with a dermatologist provided expert advice about proper skin care and how to achieve a total beautiful look. A fashion show in cooperation with the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines featured Manila's top models in Pond's-inspired creations by young and dynamic fashion designers Randy Ortiz, Vic Barba, Dennis Lustico and Len Nepomuceno Guiao.

Putting 'trust' in somebody's hands

TRUST will always be an important facet of any relationship - between friends, acquaintances, family, colleagues or an institution. Putting your trust in somebody's hands means there is a degree of confidence in the other's ability to nurture and keep the relationship healthy and mutually beneficial.

There is another form of "trust", however, the fiduciary relationship that exists between a bank or a trust institution and the client. Under this arrangement, the client entrusts his money with the bank, who in turn will manage these investments for the ultimate benefit of the client.

Despite being established early in the country, trust services began to gain widespread acceptance among the banking public only during the 1980s. In a recent interview, Trust Officers Association of the Philippines (Toap) president Elena Sarmiento said the level of trust services in 1983 was only P18 billion and eventually reached P100 billion in 1991. As of September 2002, total trust assets have grown to an unprecedented P550 billion, based on data from the assets held in trust report of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The Common Trust Fund or "CTF" are investments of several clients pooled together to wisely and strategically tap the opportunities of a much larger fund. Earnings potential usually depends on how large the fund is and where the investments are placed. The most common investment outlets are various high-yield, fixed-income instruments such as treasury bills, bonds, loans, corporate papers, and other securities.

One of the trust products currently in the market today is the Trust Maximizer, an affordable investment alternative introduced by East West Banking Corp., one of the country's fastest-growing commercial banks. The Trust Maximizer enjoys better yields even for small investors since the fund is placed in high-yield fixed-income instruments only. Thus, the fund enjoys relatively stable earnings minus sudden dips in investment yields.

And unlike time deposits, the Trust Maximizer has no specified term of deposit and is not subject to documentary stamps taxes. In terms of yield or profit, the Trust Maximizer offers higher yields since it uses the Net Asset Value Per Unit (Navpu) as basis, which is reflective of the actual performance of the funds.

Everybody dreams of gaining more for their hard-earned savings, but the problem is where to entrust one's valuable resources. The good news is, there's a good investment alternative with East West Bank's Trust Maximizer, where clients can choose to invest in pesos or US dollars.

For more details on the Trust Maximizer, call East West Bank's trust department at 818-0080 / 830-8741 / 830-8958 or log on to www.eastwestbanker.com. Or email at service@eastwestbanker.com.

RIZAL-ARGONAUT ROAD WIDENING PROJECT
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair Felicito Payumo (3rd from right) unveils the marker of the P629 million Rizal Argonaut Road Widening Project at the Malawaan Viaduct in Maritan Highway, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Also present during the event are (from left) DPWH regional director Alfredo Tolentino, Anne Marie Gordon, World Bank manager for operations and country services Christian Rey, World Bank operations officer Cecille Vales and Castillejos-town Mayor Enrique Magsaysay.

ATION KALINGA

BAYANTEL PUTS UP CALLING CENTERS IN THE PROVINCES
Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (BayanTel) offered free overseas calls to families with relatives in the Middle East in its franchise areas in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and parts of Mindanao to support the government's Oplan Kalinga program. BayanTel phones were installed in the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) offices in Naga, Legaspi, Daet, Sorsogon in Bicol, Tacloban City, Borongan and Catbalogan in Samar, Maasin (Leyte) and Davao, General Santos, and Butuan cities. Photo shows Mrs Deo Apolinar of Legaspi City making a call to her son in Kuwait while flanked by (from left) Albay PIA officer Mar Arguelles, BayanTel Bicol sales manager Janette Espino, and Maurice Averilla of the BayanTel Legaspi office.

STCM HS '68 RENDERS OPM MEDLEY
High School class '68 of St. Theresa's College, Manila (STCM) recently performed a song-and-dance number based on popular OPM songs by Sampaguita, VST & Co. and Rico Puno, to name a few. Choreographed by Veda Bañez Alonso and arranged by Nori Sayo, the presentation was one of the more applauded in the just concluded 2003 STCM homecoming. Photo shows (from left, front row): Rose Galvez-Misa and Ginnie Crisostomo-Roxas; (from left, back row): Linda Lim-Marty, Josie Bautista-David, Mariquit Soriano, Aida Reyes-Rejano, Sally Dagza-Gonzales and Sol Jimenez.

Bits Clips

Australia Emabassy photography exhibit

IN CELEBRATION of National Migrants Day this June, the Australian Embassy Manila proudly presents a relevant photograph exhibition that depicts Philippine's modern day heroes: overseas foreign workers in Hong Kong. Entitled 'Helpers', the exhibition showcases photographs of overseas Filipino workers' living quarters in Hong Kong. Australian photographer Rick Martin, an acclaimed photographer who has been holding solo exhibitions all over Asia Europe and his native Australia, has captured the Filipinos' enigmatic way of expressing happiness and contentment in the midst of hard work. Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas will open "Helpers" on Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Ayala Museum, ground floor, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City. The exhibit runs until July 5. For more details, contact the Ayala Museum at 812-1191 or the Australian Embassy's public affairs section at 757-8173. You may also visit www.australia.com.ph. Rick Martin is represented by the John Batten Gallery in Hong Kong.

Effective Inventory Management

BUSINESS Academy will hold an Effective Inventory Management seminar on June 6, Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Tektite. This course will help you 'Minimize Losses through Systematic Inventory Control' and maximize profits for your business. Learn how to set up a workable inventory system, discover effective tools and techniques in managing physical inventory records, and use hardware and new software. Also includes auditing, forecasting, security measures to prevent pilferage - with demos, sampler forms and case studies. Inclusive of snacks and drinks. For inquiries, visit www.businessmaker-academy.com or call 687-4445 / 687-3416 for reservations.

Greenhills, cellphone capital

THE GREENHILLS Shopping complex is considered the cellphone capital where all brands and models are available. Here, the latest models are showcased and cellphones can be upgraded, repaired and soft wares installed. To accommodate more people, a special section called Telecom Gallery at the second floor is exclusively for cellphones and accessories, for repair, installation and other services. During the 10th edition of "Telecommunication back to back with the Korea in Focus and Garden Show" from June 6 to 29, cellphone lovers looking for new models and those who want to upgrade or with defective cellphones can visit the Telecom Gallery.

REALESTATE
E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Digital proof of lot in 72 hours or less

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT HAS become a cruel fact of the Philippine property market. Property buyers sometimes end up purchasing not quite what they expected: a supposedly prime spot that turns out to be in the middle of a swamp, or beside a riverbank that's about to erode or flood into oblivion, or on a shaky fault line.

There are those who end up buying "open-polygon" properties shaped either like a letter "Z" or a "G," amusing if it weren't for the fact that such configurations are useless (and a waste of money). Investments worth millions are messed up by things as trivial as typographical errors on land titles. And titleholders have no recourse but to settle the errors in court, another costly and time-consuming procedure.

Meanwhile, obtaining complete property profiles currently take three months, involving up to 20 government agencies and nearly P50,000 in fees (over the table and otherwise) before information can be extracted.

Modern technology promises to end such "cruelties."

Good news

The good news now is, before deciding to buy a property anywhere in the Philippines, you can now get the vital information you need in 72 hours (even less) via a computerized offsite survey.

"Everything on the air, everything on the ground, or everything below one's prospective property and on its adjacent establishment can be obtained digitally in 72 hours via the computerized land information management system (CLaIMS) of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations Inc. (Creba)," said Techie Bautista, Creba's chair for CLaIMS.

Information layers

Over 50 types of information layers on land nationwide can be accessed with CLaIMS. Bautista said the database is based on information gathered from government agencies concerned.

Your property of choice in any spot in the Philippines can be magnified and digitally zoomed in to its land cover, zonal value, area in its municipaliy—in varying degree of spatial layers, she added.

The automated land information system can even show the number of registered voters, the population, the profile of the household(s) in the property, the literacy rate of the local populace, the zonal value for tax purposes, location of nearby rivers and watersheds, the land contour, slope, type of soil, climate and fault lines.

It could also show historical sites and monuments, zip codes, area codes, and boundaries (from barangay to regional levels). It even shows tourist spots, crime rates (if located in Metro Manila), other establishments, and location of airports and seaports.

First in RP

Bautista said CLaIMS is the first of its kind in the Philippines. It would benefit not only individual lot owners but also big developers and business people.

She added CLaIMS could determine for prospective developers the stability of the property: if the land is soft or if the underlying rock formation is too solid. With this technology, she added developers could also study the topography and thus determine if leveling would be necessary.

Business people can also verify digitally the number of commercial centers in and around the prospective property, the population and potential for business establishments they are planning to put up in a particular area, and the suitability for constructing underground facilities such as basement parking. CLaIMS would also determine if basic utilities and services such as electricity, telephone lines and water systems are present.

For a small fee, CLaIMS spares prospective buyers from tediously hopping from one government office to another. More important, buyers are spared from the tragedy of buying defective or spurious land titles.

"The key is peace of mind to land buyers," she said. She added the accuracy of each survey is assured with the signature of a registered geodetic engineer.

Adding more confidence

Creba chair Manuel Serrano said the digital land information system would add more confidence in the local land investment climate, introduce more dynamism in the real estate industry, facilitate land investment from overseas Filipinos, and improve the quantity and quality of real estate industry players.

Creba will open CLaIMS to the public this June holding office at the Creba Center at Don A Roces Avenue corner South A, Quezon City. It is also planning to tap government offices for people to have faster access to CLaIMS.

Provincial chapters will be established for inquiries from the provinces. The computerized land information system will soon be web-based.

All one needs is to submit a clear copy of one's land title. The technical description of the land title is processed onto the CLaIMS software. An elaborate location plan is generated, showing the provincial, city, barangay and parcel maps relative to the accurate shape of the land parcel—all based from one's land title.

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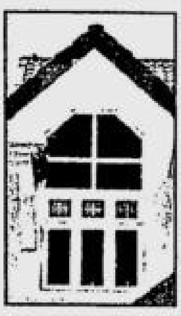

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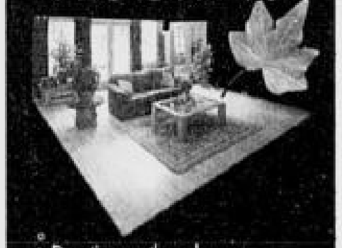

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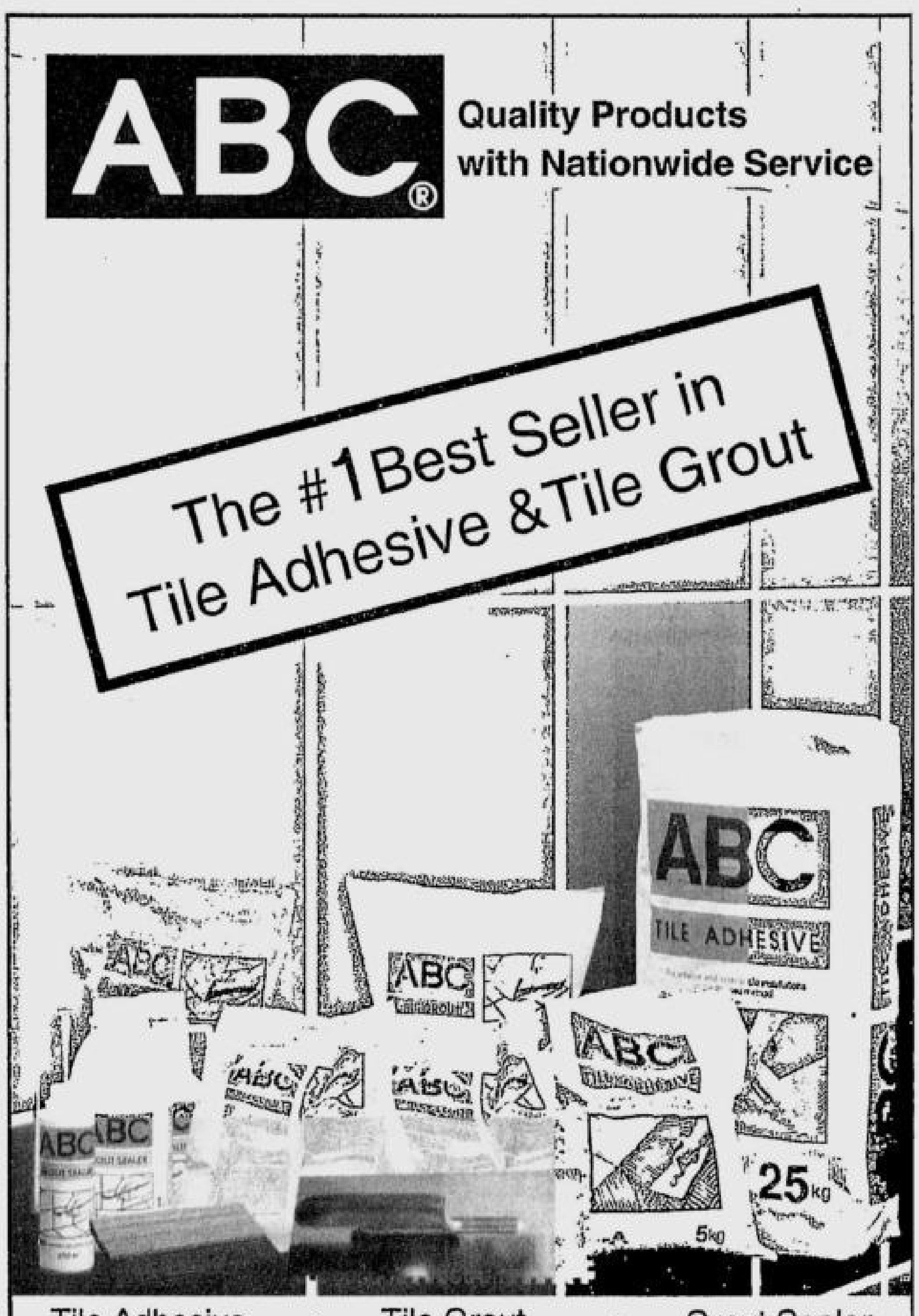

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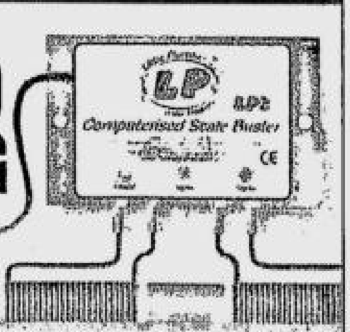

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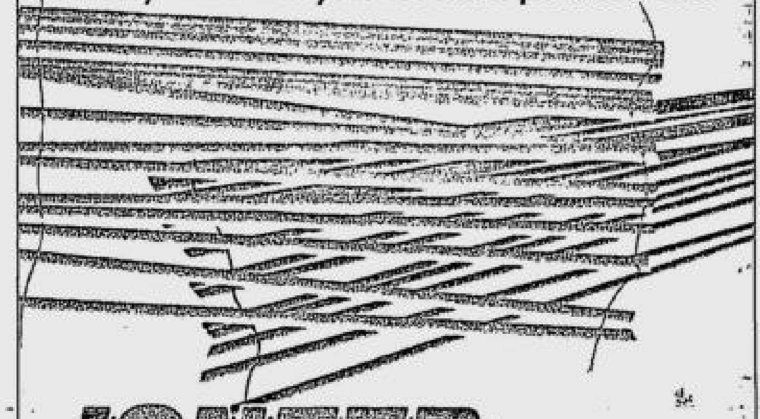

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Getting the best financial deal

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

HAVING decided that you have to take a loan to finance your home, knowing how and when to get it would ensure that you get the most loan value for the property that you are offering as collateral. Our readers during the past two weeks had sent me specific questions on how they should go about obtaining a loan. I would like to share with you their questions and my answers:

Q: If I am qualified to borrow, which financing source will give me the best value?

BUILDING DREAMS

A: You have a lot of financing options namely: banks, financial companies, sellers and even your relatives and friends. Banks can be the most formal of these in which you would need to fill up many requirements but they can also give you the best value when it comes to your loan. Interest rates that the banks offer are usually lower than the interest rates offered by either in house financing or lending companies. Personal loans can easily be accessed but be careful with personal loans from relatives and friends and make sure that you have a clearly written agreement about payments and penalties. Assess carefully which financing source will satisfy your most important needs.

Having decided that I will borrow from the bank, how will I find the best bank for me?

It is but natural that you apply for a loan with the bank that you commonly use. Give out an application to at least two banks and find out which one will give you the best deal. But if you are comfortable with one bank, then go ahead. No two banks would give you exactly the same loan value since each bank would have their own policies and procedures in appraising a property offered as collateral. As a borrower, there can be two very important things for you—getting the lowest interest rate or having the highest appraised value. Ask yourself on what is most important for you.

Do I have to borrow the maximum loan amount?

If you are short in equity and would need a high loan amount, then a high appraisal is necessary. Remember to borrow not in terms of your credit limit but borrow in terms of what you can afford. Many pieces of properties have been foreclosed mainly because the borrowers used the maximum loan amount that their credit standing and collateral could get.

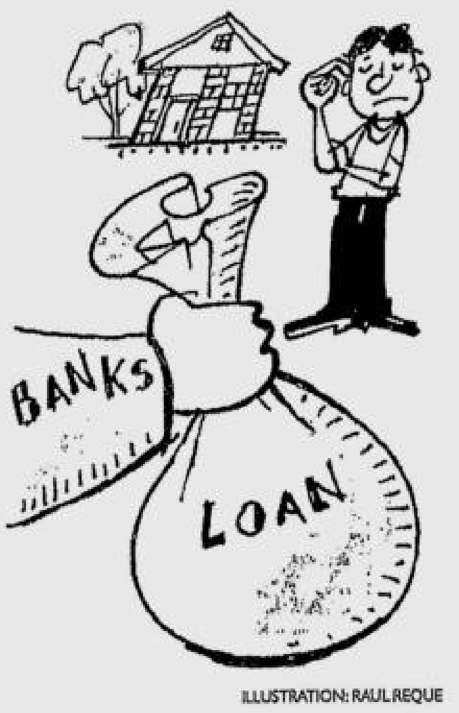

ILLUSTRATION: RAUL REQUE

Should I fix the interest rate for one, three or five years?

You have the option of fixing the interest rate for a certain period of time. The shorter the time period that you have a fixed interest rate, the lower the interest rate that the bank will charge you.

In borrowing, fixing the interest rate for one year would expose you to the risk of having a higher interest rate the following year. But you also get the benefits of a lower interest in case lending rates decrease. If you fix the interest rate for 5 years, you are protected against any increases in interest rate within 5 years but you would have to get a loan at a higher interest rate.

It really depends on the risks that you would be willing to take. If you would want to be locked in at a fixed amortization for the next 5 years and you would not want to worry about any sudden surges in interest rate, then fixing the rate for a longer period may be your best option.

How long should I borrow money?

The shorter the time period of your loan, then the less interest that you have to pay. Simply put, you pay less interest if your loan term is 5 years than 10. Try your best to pay your loan as soon as you can.

Do I get penalized for prepayment?

In case you have extra money, try your best to pay as much principal as you can. Make sure that you do not get penalized for pre-payment. Read the fine print of your loan agreements and make sure that you consult with your account officer regarding this matter. You can request the bank to write specifically that there would be no prepayment penalty. Evaluate everything that is offered to you.

What are the costs of getting a loan?

A real estate mortgage is duly annotated in the title and expenses for registration are necessary. Like a car, the improvements have to be insured to protect its value. The costs in obtaining a loan include mortgage redemption insurance, registration fees, fire insurance, documentary stamps, annotation fees and other miscellaneous fees. Ask your lender to compute these expenses before signing on the loan agreement.

Prepare yourself before borrowing

In availing of financing, it is best that you prepare yourself by following the simple steps:

Step 1—First and foremost, determine the house that you would really need. Location selection may be the most important decision and is affected by your place of work, where the children go to school, security, accessibility to public transport, etc. List down the factors that are most important to you and your family.

Step 2—Save as much money for the equity before you shop for the home of your dreams. This process requires a lot of financial planning and may require that you temporarily give up the other luxuries in life like trips abroad, that expensive car, etc. This means that you may have to prepare years in advance. A good way to do it is you get a vacant residential lot of your choice and pay it in installment payments. Once you have fully paid your lot, then it will serve as your equity and you may now apply for a construction loan.

Do not aim for the minimum equity that the banks would require. Aim for the highest down payment that you can give. You might be surprised that you may have saved enough to pay the property that you want in cash!

Step 3—Spend time shopping for a home and shopping for a loan. Ask the various lenders on their policies, interest rates, etc. Discuss with them your various financing options. Understand the terms and conditions of the loan that you are taking out.

Step 4—Make sure that you can afford the monthly payments. As a general rule, it may be best that your monthly amortization not exceed 30 to 40 percent of your net monthly income after taxes. So if your monthly net income is say P40,000, then a monthly payment of P12,000 to P16,000 should be comfortable.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)

Property sector picks up; Celebrity Place up for grabs

AFTER A TEMPORARY weakening brought about by America's invasion of Iraq and most recently the panic over SARS, the local property sector started showing signs of recovering. High-end property Celebrity Place walkup condo in Diliman, Quezon City, has been experiencing rapid increases in reservations from potential buyers in recent weeks.

Celebrity Place's developer, One Asia Development Corp., broke the ground last May 17 for the first walkup condominium project, which consists of eight clusters for a total of 140 units integrated within the P1.2-billion townhouse development.

Areas

One Asia president and chief executive officer Victor H. Manarang said Celebrity Place offers studio-type, two-bedroom or three-bedroom units with a gross floor area of 31 square meters to 104 sq. m with all units having individual parking slots.

Garden areas ranging from 35 sq. m to 40 sq. m are also allotted for the one-, two- and three-bedroom units. The price of a studio unit is P2 million.

Property buyers for Celebrity Place are automatically entitled to a free membership at the Celebrity Sports Club, a modern sports and recreation center, and all its facilities.

Manarang said the combined effects of the US-Iraq war and SARS caused people to hold on to their reserve funds for emergencies. "The upscale market is very sensitive to such psychological factors which is why marketing efforts of property developers also had to be scaled down."

Marketing

One Asia managed to sell 42 condo units of Celebrity Place before the groundbreaking. The pace of marketing would drastically increase with development now in full swing, Manarang said.

Celebrity Place condo project caters to the young urban professionals (yuppies) and startup families who are sports- and health-conscious. "Fortunately, Quezon City has a tremendous market for this type. These are the emerging markets for walkup condos," Manarang said.

Access

Unit owners will have access to Celebrity Sports Club's Olympic-size and kiddie swimming pools, basketball and squash courts, bowling lanes, tennis and badminton courts, spa and jacuzzi, archery, gym and aerobic studios, game arcade, day-care center, ballroom, board and meeting rooms, pool side café, sports bar lounge and beauty and dance studios.

The community itself will have landscaped parks, walkways and gardens, round the clock security, a professional village management, centralized fire alarm system, underground water system with emergency generator, semiunderground cabling, and concrete roads with asphalt overlay.

One Gateway Place

ONE GATEWAY PLACE MODEL UNITS INAUGURATED

Robinsons Land Corp.-High Rise Buildings Division recently inaugurated the one-bedroom and studio model units of One Gateway Place. One Gateway Place is the first of four residential towers to rise within the master-planned community of Gateway Residences located beside the soon-to-be redeveloped Robinsons Metro Central Mall on Edsa corner Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City. From right are project director Tony Liza, business development and control director) Mybelle Gobio, GM Danilo Ignacio and sales and marketing services director Malou Serna.

Nurses, entertainers keep Davao city real estate alive

DAVAO CITY—Nurses working abroad and entertainers from Japan are keeping alive the city's real estate industry, which greatly suffered in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis and economic uncertainties hounding the country these past months.

Warphy Sarande, trustee of the Davao Board of Realtors Foundation Inc., said during the first quarter of the year alone, 70-80 percent of the total P40-million sales of the real estate industry came from nurses working in the United States and London and the usual "Japayukis."

"But these are not cash on deliveries, that's the total contract price, these are paid by installments," Sarande said.

He said agents and real estate brokers have also intensified their efforts to cash in on the new market.

"Our market are the nurses because they have the capacity to pay the amortization and they have extra savings," he said.

Sarande said nurses, because they could afford high-end property, usually choose those offered by Robinsons Highlands or Sta. Lucia Realty Developers. He said they do not mind even if the cost of lot offered by the two developers range from P3,100 to P4,800 per square meter.

The local real estate industry, Sarande added, has been peaking up because of these market segments especially now that banks have also started to offer a lot of promotions for loan borrowers.

Recently, the BPI Family Bank offered housing loans at very low interests, low monthly amortizations, discounts from developers and no application fees.

"People from Cotabato are also coming to buy residential units in Davao City as their second home," Sarande said.

Joel B. Escovilla,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sentricon: No 'Mission Impossible'

WHEN your home has become hostage to millions of ravenous termites (considered the most economically devastating household pest), you will need something more than the spray-and-pray tactic to win the war.

For many decades, the pest control industry struggled to find a solution to termite infestation. The chemical Chlordane was used for many years because it was potent and had a very long residual effect so structures stayed protected against termites for about 50 years. But industry experts eventually realized that because toxic elements stayed very long in the soil, it posed a great risk to the health and the environment.

When rains came down on soil sprayed with Chlordane, the chemical would mix with rainwater and flow into river systems so that whatever it came in contact with died, including fishes. And so Chlordane was eventually banned.

Pest control practitioners and homeowners turned to chemical barriers and spray treatments to keep subterranean termites off pieces of property. But factors like moisture, soil movement and microbial activities break the barrier and degrade the chemicals so that after 2 to 3 years of conventional termiticide treatment, the pests would have expanded to other areas and established new colonies, for a second chance to creep back into your home.

Effective system

In 1989, entomologist Dr. Nan-Yao Su of the University of Florida determined that "hexaflumuron," the active ingredient in Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, makes the best viable bait compound. A year later, Dr. Su worked hand-in-hand with Dow AgroSciences to research and develop a system effective in distributing the bait to eliminate termite colonies.

The Sentricon System was developed in conjunction with American universities and the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. By 1994, hexaflumuron became the first pest control product in the US to receive fast track registration from the Environmental Protection Agency under the new Reduced Risk Pesticide Initiative.

Popular

After it was commercially introduced, Sentricon steadily became popular among pest control operators and home or property owners because it exterminated multiple termite colonies in a matter of months. The revolutionary technology took the industry by storm and was featured on prestigious media outlets.

At present, so much is being done to enhance the system, including improving the design of the above ground baiting units and making the taste of the bait more "palatable" to the termites.

In the past, tons of chemicals are poured into the ground and sprayed inside the home, only to repel termites temporarily. With Sentricon, less than a gram of the active ingredient is needed to eliminate entire colonies and prevent renewed termite activity. So is a termite-free environment positively practicable? Yes, it really is no mission impossible with Sentricon System.

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Lecture on investing in real estate

TO PROVIDE helpful guidelines to the benefits of beginning and prospective real estate investors, dealers, developers and realty professionals, a seminar on "Investing in Real Estate" will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate on June 10 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive cor. Theater Drive Ayala Center, Makati City.

This seminar will be repeated on June 12 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max Restaurant, Level 4, Robinsons Metro East, Marcos Highway, Dela Paz, Pasig City, near Quezon City and Marikina.

The four-hour lecture will cover the different opportunities and techniques in real estate investments which include the pros and cons of investing in vacant land; buy and sell or lease; build and sell; rehabilitation of foreclosed and damaged properties; master leasing; leasing with option to buy; converting apartments to townhouses; and developing small vacant lands.

Also included in a general orientation are such topics as real estate economics, legal and contract documents, financing and analyzing investments, property appraisal, property development, development rules and regulations, property management, real estate taxation, and property valuation or appraisal.

For particulars, call up Urban Institute at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

HardiFlex gets homeowners ready for the rainy season

THE RAINY season is almost here again. For some homeowners, it means having to contend with a leaky ceiling, the part of the house that is particularly vulnerable to water damage.

"Roof and ceiling repairs are frequently put off because of other pressing concerns, but now is actually the best time to prepare your home for the rainy days," stresses James Hardie Phils. Inc. marketing manager Junie Rondon.

Commitment

Rondon says the JHPI is committed to helping homeowners deal with the problems brought by rain through one of its flagship products, HardiFlex Lite, a lightweight fiber cement board (FCB) specifically made for ceiling applications.

HardiFlex, which is essentially made of cement and wood fiber from replenishable forests in New Zealand, possesses unique water-resistant qualities that make it the top-of-mind choice when it comes to ceiling repair or installation.

With a sturdy HardiFlex ceiling over their heads, homeowners are confident that they'll remain dry and comfortable in their homes throughout the rainy season.

"Unlike plywood, HardiFlex fiber cement boards are extremely water resistant and will not warp or go out of shape, rot nor easily peel off," declares Rondon.

Get your money's worth

"You get your money's worth because a ceiling using HardiFlex is very durable. There will hardly be any need for repairs for a very long time," he adds. "It's as strong as concrete, yet is reasonably flexible. Every HardiFlex fiber cement board comes with a 10-year warranty."

HardiFlex also does not contain asbestos, a material that has been banned in many countries because of the health risks it poses.

"Filipino homeowners are tired of worrying about ceilings that leak, warp, get eaten up by termites, or utilize materials that are hazardous to their health. They've discovered that when it comes to repairing their ceilings, they have a safer, more durable and cost-effective option," declares Rondon.

Tips

Rondon offers these tips on making one's home safe and secure during the rainy season:

- Examine your roof and ceiling for evidence of damage. Have these repaired immediately.
- Trim tree branches to ensure that they are not in contact with the house.
- Check overhead wires coming to the house. They should be secure and clear of trees and other obstructions.
- Examine electrical panels, wiring and electrical components for evidence of overheating. Ensure that all components are secure.

Fitness LIFESTYLE

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

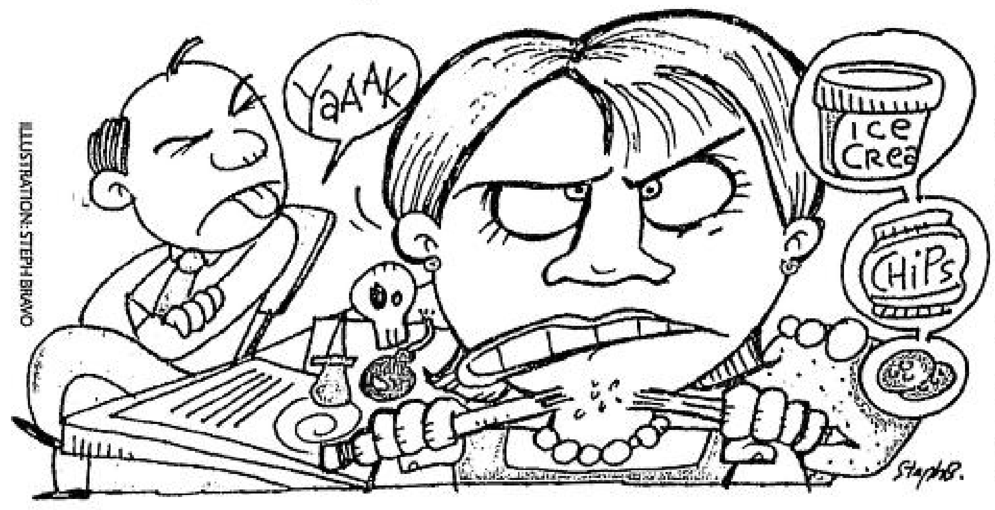

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Acute stress dampens the appetite, while chronic stress increases it

Why stress can make you fat

From a reader:

My officemate and I are gaining weight in spite of dieting. We tried the Atkins diet but we weren't able to do it 100 percent, although our food intake was lessened. The two of us are both sole breadwinners. We're working mothers. Is the theory of my officemate right, that the stress that we have might be the factor that slows our metabolism? That's why, in spite of lesser food intake and not-so regular exercise, still nothing happens? I'm 40 years old and my friend is 42. Does our age have something to do with our weight gain?

NINA

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

The answer is yes, your officemate is partly right. Stress and age do play a role in weight gain. But another important factor is the "not-so regular" exercise. Even if you eat less, if you do not exercise, you will have a harder time losing weight.

Men and women get fatter as they get older for several reasons. First, they become more sedentary. Lack of exercise makes them burn fewer calories than they did when they were younger and more active. Second, lack of exercise also makes their muscles flabbier and weaker. This slows down the metabolism because hard, dense and strong muscles consume more calories. Third, people have more responsibilities as they grow older. This not only means less time to exercise but it also means more stress. This week's column will be about why stress can make you fat. Next week, we will tackle what you can do about it.

Actually, stress can make you fat or thin. It depends on the way you respond to stress, and it also depends on the kind of stress. According to Dr. Pamela Peeke, author of "Fight Fat after Forty," people have three different eating responses to stress. Stress-resilient people respond to stress by exercising or meditating. Stress over-eaters turn to food while stress under-eaters lose their appetite.

Acute and chronic stress

Other scientists have noticed that acute stress dampens the appetite while chronic stress increases it. Acute stress is a dramatic situation like the death of a loved one, a major earthquake, losing your job, or having your house burn down. Chronic stress or low-anxiety stress is the day-to-day reality of what happens after when you have to deal with the loneliness of living alone, having to look for a job, or having to look for finances to build a new home. Peeke describes chronic stress as "not just the irritation of sitting in a traffic jam, but the type of stress that is associated with hopelessness, helplessness, and a feeling of defeat—such as a micromanaging boss that makes your life miserable, or an ailing mother."

Nutritionist Carol Simontacchi gave a real-life example during last year's Idea World Fitness Convention about how acute and chronic stress can affect weight gain. She told her audience that her daughter, who lived in another state, got into a serious car accident and almost died. During the first few weeks, Simontacchi lost a considerable amount of weight from the stress of watching her daughter fight for her life. However, she gained back all the weight and more in the months that followed from the stress of having to be separated from her husband and other children plus having to take a leave from work to nurse her daughter back to health.

How stress makes you hungry

Peeke, a former researcher on stress and nutrition at the National Institute of Health, explains that the body produces two main hormones when you are under stress: adrenaline and cortisol. These hormones make you alert, focused and concentrated. They also jack up your heart rate, increase your blood pressure, and tense up your muscles to get ready for a rumble. When the stress subsides, adrenaline is quickly removed from your system but cortisol hangs around much longer.

Since we are made to survive in a physically demanding environment, your body assumes that you have spent the day defending hearth and home from marauding pirates in

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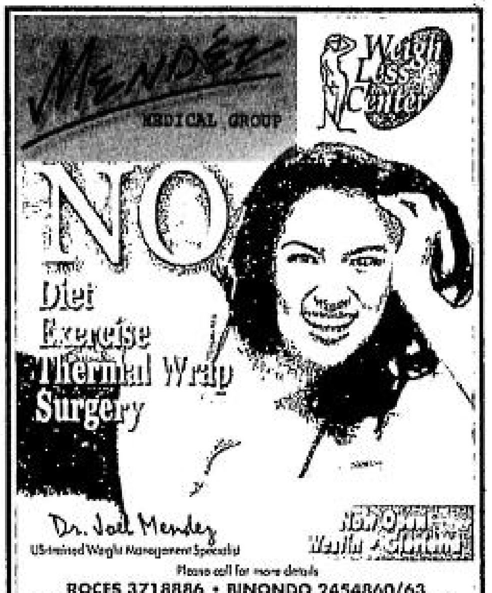

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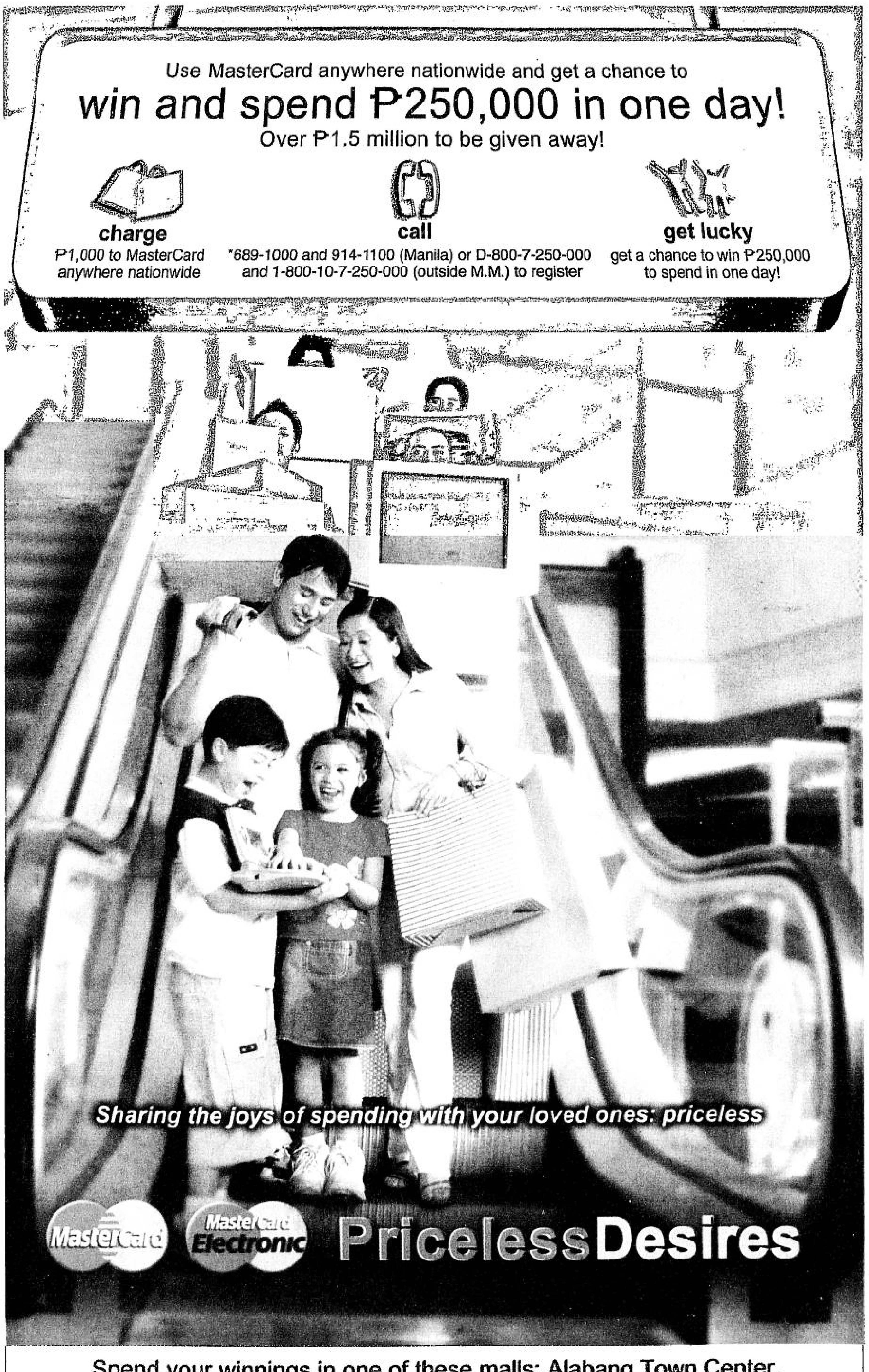
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Promo is from May 16 to August 15, 2003. See poster for details. *Approved by DTI-NCR Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1161, Series of 2003

Why stress can make you fat

From page C1

stead of just simmering with resentment over the thoughtless remarks of a difficult client. The result? Cortisol, which is also an appetite trigger, makes you hungrier so you can replenish all the calories you supposedly burned. Since fat and carbohydrates are the two main sources of energy, this can be one of the reasons why people tend to reach out for high-fat and high-carb food when they are under stress.

In the cave man days, this meant nuts and tubers. Today, it means ice cream, pizza, cake, cookies and potato chips. The problem is we don't need that many calories because we are no longer running away from hungry tigers; only from bill collectors.

Another theory for the intense cravings for sweets during stress is that carbohydrates stimulate the production of serotonin, a brain chemical that controls your mood. When you are agitated and anxious, eating foods high in carbohydrates calms you down.

These kinds of food are also psychologically attractive because they were probably what your mother gave you to dry up your tears. It's what weight-management experts call "comfort food."

CortiZone

According to Peeke, stress encourages late afternoon and evening overeating. Cortisol levels are naturally highest in the morning when we need to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for work. Cortisol levels drop as the day wears on because by nature's design, we are supposed to sleep soon after the sun sets. But just as your body is supposed to wind down, you have to fight traffic to go home, do grocery, do overtime for an important project or you have to meet a client for cocktails.

Peeke calls the hours between 3 p.m. and midnight the "CortiZone" because just as cortisol levels drop, mindless eating increases. This is when the "vending machine calls to you," she says. People use food as a temporary escape from problems or as a way to make up for lack of sleep (another result of stress). Food becomes the reward for the day's frustrations and minor irritations.

Most dangerous kind of fat

Aside from increasing appetite, cortisol causes fat to be stored in the fat cells deep inside the abdominal cavity. This kind of fat is called visceral fat. It's stored under your abdominal muscles. It's the kind of fat that makes men look like they have swallowed a basketball. You can tell it is visceral fat because the abdomen will feel tight and hard. It's also the most dangerous kind of fat because it is associated with heart disease, hypertension, type-2 diabetes, and a host of other health conditions. This is one of the reasons why stress can kill you.

Women can also develop visceral fat in response to stress, and more so after menopause when waning estrogen levels make a woman's fat storage shift from her hips, buttocks, and thighs to her upper abdomen and waist. Like one middle-aged client told Peeke, her figure had changed from an hourglass to a shot glass.

Why even thin women can have a big belly

Even slim women are not exempt from fat build-up in the waist and abdomen if they are constantly under stress. A Yale University study on normal weight and overweight premenopausal women found that women tend to store more fat in their abdomen than their hips when they undergo prolonged periods of stress. The study's conclusion? The more stress a woman is exposed to, the bigger her belly.

The last reason why stress can make you fat is lack of time to eat healthy food. Stressed-out people are always on the go, grabbing whatever food they can along the way. The food choices available are usually unhealthy and high in calories.

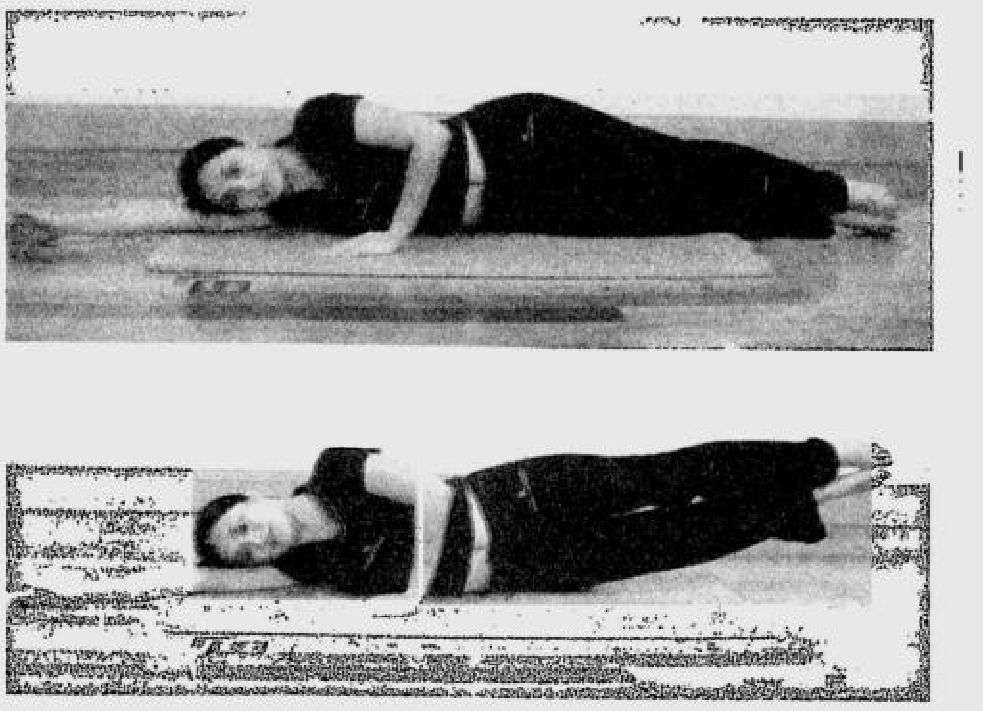
Watch "In Fitness & In Health" Mondays to Fridays on Studio 23, 6-6:30 a.m. and on Net25, 6-6:30 p.m.

For past articles and exercises or suggestions for future articles, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pilates side leg lift

Series 2



THIS Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens the obliques (muscles that crisscross the waist) as well as hips and inner thigh muscles.

Equipment

Exercise mat

Exercise technique

1. Lie on your side with your legs together in line with your hips and shoulders.
2. Rest your head on your bent bottom arm and place your top hand in front of your chest on the mat with your palm flat and your fingertips facing your head.
3. Exhale as you lift both legs. Inhale as you lower them to the mat.

Performance tips

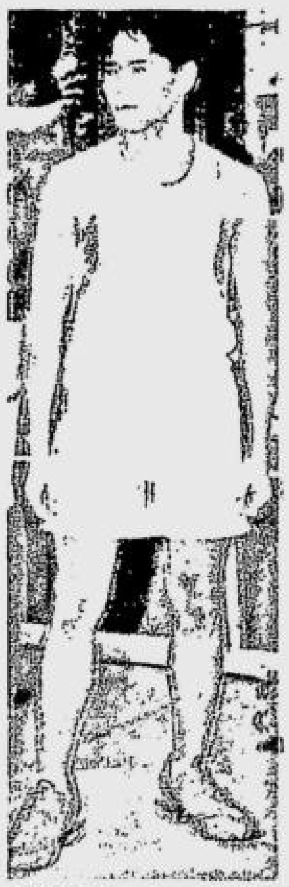
1. Always contract your abdominal muscles first before you lift your legs to protect your lower back.
2. Foot position: Point your feet as you lift the legs. Flex your feet as you lower the legs down.
3. Avoid jerking. Move slowly with control as you lift and lower legs.
4. Keep your shoulder and hip from rolling forward or backwards as you lift your legs by contracting your abdominal muscles and visualizing a glass of water on your shoulder and hip.
5. Always lengthen and elongate your legs as you lift.
6. Try to bring your knees and ankles together.
7. This is an advanced exercise. Do not attempt this if you have a history of lower back problems. Ask your doctor first.

Repetitions

Do five to 10 repetitions on each side.

TEAM Nike with models during the recent Nike Summer 03 Dri-Fit Collection Apparel Tutorial sessions: (from left) Rely San Agustin, marketing communications executive; Ellen Flores, sales manager for apparel; (first and second from right) Colo Ventosa, marketing manager and Hector Yuzon, Ekin specialist.

THE WOMEN'S Training Dri-Fit Power Y II Airborne Top and Dri-Fit New Design pants



MEN'S Running Fundamental singlet and Men's Running MicroFibre 5" box shorts

Cool collection from dry-and-fit fabric technology

NIKE recently launched its Summer '03 Dri-Fit collection.

The Dri-Fit technology allows the fabric to act as a siphon for sweat on the skin. The sweat is then delivered to the outside of the fabric where moisture is dispersed for rapid evaporation.

Hector Yuzon, Ekin specialist, showed how advanced the Dri-Fit technology is by wetting a Dri-Fit apparel to simulate sweat and demonstrating how easy the shirt turns dry.

The line includes shirts, sleeveless tees and jackets for men and shirts and tank tops for women. Bottoms for men are a variety of box shorts, summer shorts, half pants and detachable pants. For women, there are eye-catching pants and shorts.

YUZON demonstrates how Nike Dri-Fit works better compared to regular cloth in keeping sweat off the body.

Mall opens its own health clinic

STA. Lucia Realty, one of the country's leading real estate developers, has opened a multidisciplinary health care center inside the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

The mall-based clinic has an area of over 1,150 sqm and provides a wide range of medical services and equipment for mall-goers and nearby residents. It is staffed by physicians and medical consultants from different reputable hospitals who are individual specialists in at least 31 different fields.

Aside from providing consultation services, the Sta. Lucia Health Care Center is also equipped for minor outpatient surgery (cosmetic and non-cosmetic) with its complete operating and emergency room facilities, Dialysis Center, ultrasound, ECG and other diagnostic equipment. A complete range of laboratory services is also available. For patients in more serious condition, a stand-by ambulance is available to take them to the nearest accredited hospital.

"We aim to provide our mall-goers and nearby residents the additional convenience and peace of mind of knowing that as they go about their shopping or groceries, they can easily access high-quality medical help all within the mall," says Sta. Lucia CEO Exequiel Robles. "More so for the residents living within the 5-km radius of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, a large part of which is within Sta. Lucia Realty subdivision developments."

The clinic's rates for consultation and other medical services are reasonable and competitive with other first-class medical clinics.

For appointments and visits, call 647-2524 to 46, 647-2870/3174/3567/3568.

STA. Lucia Health Care Center EVP for operations Dr. Porfirio Tica takes Cainta Mayor Nicanor Felix on a tour of the operating facility of Sta. Lucia Health Care Center in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. With them are (from left) SLHCC EVP for finance Dr. Geoffrey Angeles, Binibining Pilipinas 2003 candidate Joyce de los Reyes; Sta. Lucia CEO Exequiel Robles and Dr. Ardonio Cruz.

Wellness zone promotes importance of bone health

PEOPLE often neglect the need for proper bone nutrition. While exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle are good, these are still anchored on overall bone health.

Although calcium depletion of the bones, leading to osteoporosis, begins by about age 30, the battle of the bones can easily be won. Work hard, play hard, and live life to the fullest! One's best line of defense against osteoporosis is prevention by adapting a bone-beneficial diet which is high in calcium.

The best, most natural source for bone nutrition is milk, and Nestlé Calcium Plus provides 100 percent of the daily Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for calcium. It has earned the recommendation of the country's foremost bone authority, the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines (OSPI).

To help spread the importance of bone health as a cornerstone to overall well-being, the Nestlé Calcium Plus Wellness Zone was recently launched at Atrium B, Level 1 of SM Megamall, hosted by TV personality and health buff Plinky Recto. The Wellness Zone is composed of three major zones.

The first and most important is the Bone Zone, where a team of medical professionals will offer bone checks via a bone scan using the PIXI machine.

The second zone is the Inner Zone, which promotes inner health and exercise. With healthy bones, maximum gains from exercise may be derived.

The final zone is the Confidence Zone, which gives emphasis not only on looking good but also feeling good inside and out.

Fitness Advantage, John Robert Powers, and L'Oreal Philippines are active participants in the Wellness Zone and round-off a total "look good- feel good" dream team.

The Nestlé Calcium Plus Wellness Zone's tour will be at SM Megamall until June 4, Robinsons Place (Manila), June 13-19, and Alabang Town Center, June 27-29.

SARS conference in Bohol

SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) will be one of the major topics to be tackled at the 10th Annual Postgraduate Course of the American College of Chest Physicians (Philippine chapter) on June 5-7 at MetroCentre Hotel and Convention Center in Tagbilaran, Bohol. The Bohol Medical Society is co-sponsoring the event, which will have "Relevant Strategies in Cardio-Pulmonary Care" as its theme.

Aside from SARS, the session will also include the latest on Biochemical Warfare, Latent and Multi-drug Resistant TB, Severe Sepsis, Asthma and COPD, Mechanical Ventilation, and Obesity Management.

Speakers include Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Drs. Eric Tayag, Manuel Jorge, Camilo Roa Jr., Abundio Balgos, Claver Ramos, Marilyn Ong Mateo and Mercy Antoinette Gappi.

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Bodyfood lets customers enjoy the benefits of a spa from the comfort of their homes. It offers products like oatmeal and coffee-lemon soaps, milk tea soaks, honey sea salt body masks and peppermint lip balms packaged in ceramic pots and glass bottles.

Remote viewing and telekinesis in the Old Testament

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THE MORE I read the Holy Bible, the more I find confirmation of the many amazing natural mental powers of man, which were studied by modern scientists, especially in Russia and Eastern Europe, in the latter part of the 20th century.

During biblical times, such mental powers as clairvoyance (the ability to see things beyond the physical sense of sight), or precognition (seeing the future), or materialization (the ability to make something appear from nowhere), including psychic healing, were considered to be miraculous and could only be performed by God or those close to him. Today we know that these so-called miraculous powers are natural to man and part of his inherent mental faculties. They are not supernatural at all.

I have already written in previous articles about the various mental powers such as telepathy, precognition, healing, levitation, materialization and divine alchemy displayed by Jesus Christ. By the way, he said, "Everything I have done you can do, and much more than these." So he did not claim he alone could do those extraordinary things, as some fundamentalist Christians would have us believe.

Now let us turn to the Old Testament and see if we can find some biblical support for these powers. I was pleasantly surprised to see powers of remote viewing, telekinesis and even paranormal healing methods clearly described there.

Remote viewing

Remote viewing (or traveling clairvoyance), which I teach in my inner mind development and ESP seminars, refers to "the ability to see and describe a distant place or event without being there." This mental ability was thoroughly studied for 20 years and scientifically validated and confirmed by scientists led by Doctors Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, California, from the early '70s to early the '90s. These two pioneering scientists have Ph.D.'s in Physics.

While reading the Old Testament, I found that remote viewing was nothing new at all. In the second Book of Kings, Chapter 5, I found the story of the prophet Elisha, who discovered an extortion done by his servant Gehazi through his power of remote viewing.

This is the story as told in the Bible. In gratitude for curing him of leprosy, Naaman, commander of King Aram's army, offered to pay the Israeli prophet Elisha "10 talents of silver, 6,000 shekels of gold and 10 sets of garments," but the man of God refused to accept payment.

But when Naaman and his companions had gone a short distance away on their chariots, one of Elisha's servants named Gehazi, followed them with the purpose of extorting money from the visitor, saying he would not let him go away for free. So when he reached Naaman, Gehazi told him a false story that Elisha needed two talents of silver and two clothes for two prophets who had just come from afar. So Naaman gave these to Gehazi and then left.

When he went back, Elisha confronted him and asked where he had gone. Gehazi lied and said he had not gone anywhere. Elisha said to him that he saw where he had gone and what he did. This is how the Catholic Edition of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible put it:

"But he (Elisha) said to him, 'Did I not go with you in spirit when someone left his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to accept money and to accept clothing...? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever.' So he left his presence leprous, as white as snow." (2 Kings 5:26)

The punishment Elisha gave to his erring servant might appear to us too severe for the crime he committed. It even extended to his descendants who were innocent. But that's what the Bible said.

Telekinesis

Right in the succeeding chapter of the same Book of Kings 2, we find another example of Elisha's psychic powers demonstrated, namely telekinesis. This may be defined as the "ability or power to affect or move an object without using physical force."

The story goes this way. The company of prophets told Elisha to go with some men to fell trees to be used for building new houses because the community was getting too crowded. While cutting trees by the River Jordan one of the servants' ax head slipped out and fell into the water. He cried out, "Alas, Master! It was borrowed." Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When the servant showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there and made the iron float. He said, "Pick it up." So the servant reached out and took it.

There were several other extraordinary powers displayed by Elisha described in the Bible, but those, to me, already went beyond known psychic or paranormal powers. These are the ones I would admit to be miraculous, because I have not come across any similar cases in the annals of parapsychology or psychic research. For example, Elisha revived the dead son of the Shunammite woman, parted the river Jordan's water so he could cross it, and made the poisonous pot of stew edible. He also made a woman, whose husband was already old, to conceive and bear a child. The others can be explained by natural psychic powers.

Today, such miraculous powers are natural to man and part of his inherent mental faculties

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City; tel. 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Is your child a human tornado?

MARK, a grade-school student, has more energy than most boys his age. But then, he has always been overly active. Starting at age 3, Mark was labeled a human "tornado," running around and disrupting everything in his path. At home, he shifted from one activity to another, leaving a trail of toys behind him. At meal time, he upset dishes and chattered nonstop. He was impulsive and reckless.

In school, he was a lot wilder than other kids, and tended to overreact—picking fights with schoolmates simply for bumping into him, and got himself into trouble with school authorities many times.

His parents didn't know what to do with Mark. Neighbors and friends reassured them that "boys will be boys, and that Mark would outgrow this kind of behavior." But Mark never did.

Unknown to his parents and teachers, Mark was suffering from a disorder known as ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). ADHD is one of the most commonly diagnosed behavioral disorders in children and it affects approximately 3-10 percent of the school-age population, according to the 1998 Journal of Child Psychiatry.

Boys are diagnosed with ADHD three times more often than girls. Although the number of studies on adolescents is limited, data suggest that half of children diagnosed with ADHD will have persistent symptoms into adolescence. In addition, studies have demonstrated that some children diagnosed with ADHD continue to experience ADHD symptoms into adulthood.

To assess whether a child has ADHD, specialists consider several critical questions like: Are the behaviors excessive, long-term and pervasive? Do they occur more often than in other people of the same age? Are they a continuous problem, not just a response to a temporary situation?

Information obtained from these questions can be used to give a diagnosis according to the criteria defined in a reference manual called Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

According to the diagnostic manual, three patterns of behavior indicate ADHD. People with ADHD may show several signs of being consistently inattentive. They may have a pattern of being hyperactive and impulsive. Or they may show all three types of behavior.

According to the DSM, the most common behaviors fall into three categories:

Inattention. The child doesn't appear to listen when spoken to. He can't keep his mind on what he is doing for very long, unless it is very exciting or very entertaining such as video games because they are fun and exciting. The child makes all sorts of excuses to avoid tasks that require attention and sustained concentration like homework and chores. He is often moody and constantly complains of boredom, yet has difficulty initiating activities. He has a poor sense of timing, often misplaces things, is forgetful and has to be reminded to do things often.

Hyperactivity. The child is restless and can't stay in his seat for very long when in school where quiet behavior is expected. He is always on the go, runs around too much, and climbs on things he's not supposed to. His hands and feet are constantly busy—fidgeting, tapping, touching or fiddling with something.

Impulsiveness. The child speaks and acts without thinking, cuts across the conversation of others, and shouts and blurts out answers in class even before hearing the whole question. He has difficulty waiting for his turn in any physical activity. The child disrupts others and often rushes through his work making careless mistakes. He is very demanding and cannot take no for an answer.

Because everyone shows some of these behaviors at times, the DSM contains very specific guidelines for determining if they point to ADHD. These behaviors must appear early in life, before age 7, and continue for at least six months. Symptoms must be more frequent or severe than typically observed in children of the same age. Above all, the behaviors must create a real handicap in at least two areas of a person's life, such as school, home, work or social settings.

So someone who may exhibit some of the behavioral symptoms of ADHD, but whose work or friendships or social activities are not impaired by these behaviors would not be diagnosed with ADHD.

Call 824-8995 or text (0917) 893-2267.

Free medical and dental services at Edsa Shrine

THE GIFT of Change, the annual charity drive of Robinsons Malls, is supporting the medical and dental missions of the Edsa Shrine from June to November.

The medical and dental missions bring together doctors, nurses, caregivers and dentists who provide medical service to poor families from depressed areas in Quezon, Pasig and Antipolo cities, and Cainta.

The families are also provided checkup and medicines every Monday, and free dental services every Wednesday, at the Edsa Shrine's medical clinic.

To raise funds for its charitable projects, Robinsons Malls has deployed specially marked coin banks where shoppers can drop their donations. These cans can be found in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Novaliches and Robinsons Metro East in Pasig.

Large boxes will also be deployed in strategic areas of the malls for other donations such as school supplies, old clothes, toys, and books for children.

All donations and contributions will be turned over to the Edsa Shrine Free Clinic on Nov. 14, at the fountain area of Robinsons Galleria.

Call 395-2507 and 687-5681 local 355 or 356.

WHILE waiting for their turn for medical consultation, people are encouraged to listen to the lecture on catechism

DOCTORS, nurses and lay volunteers of the Edsa Shrine Free Clinic are very happy that they will be this year's beneficiary of Robinsons Malls' Gift of Change Project

New hope for kids with facial infirmities

MABUHAY Deseret Foundation, the largest surgical charity in the Philippines, is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year with nearly 30,000 life-changing surgeries provided for a special sector of indigent people in the country.

Founded in 1988 by an American doctor, Dr. Bill Jackson, the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation aims to provide medical attention to people who suffer from infirmities such as cleft lips and palates, cataract, crossed eyes, burn contractures, post-polio complications and clubfeet.

The foundation now performs an average of 3,000 operations annually. It maintains long-term relationships with Filipino doctors and hospitals to enable it to operate year-round, reducing the average cost of one operation to under P2,500.

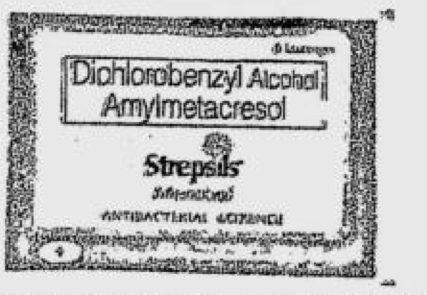
One of the foundation's current patients is Genalyn Amar from Mindoro Occidental. Amar is 10 years old and has a bilateral cleft lip and no palate, making it difficult for her to eat or speak. Her operation under the foundation's auspices is scheduled soon.

To raise funds for this and other surgeries, the foundation is staging the Change-a-Life Benefit Concert with Lani Misalucha on June 19 at the Music Museum.

For donations or inquiries, call Grace Teh at 912-0105 or e-mail deseret@jbdnet.com.

SINGER Lani Misalucha plays happily with a young patient with hare lip, soon to be operated on with the help of the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation.

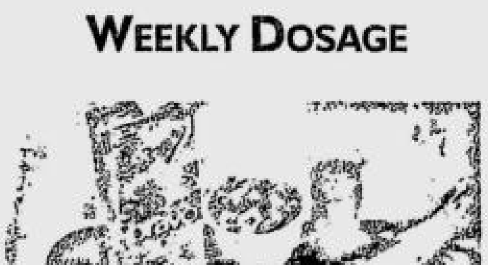
Lozenges for sore throat



STREPSILS, manufactured by The Boots Company (Phils.), helps soothe and relieve sore throat. It comes in six flavors—regular, orange, honey and lemon, menthol, herbal mint and sugar-free. Strepsils is available in Mercury Drug and all leading pharmacies, drugstores, supermarkets and convenience stores nationwide.

NESTLE 0% Fat Hi-Calcium Yogurt Drink is fortified with essential calcium that makes teeth and bones strong. It has millions of live microorganisms that fight intestinal bacteria and help in the digestion process. The product comes in yogurt cups in peach and strawberry flavors and yogurt drink in mango and strawberry flavors.

WEEKLY DOSAGE



BRAVO health beverage contains real apple, grape, orange, banana, tangerine, ananas and lemon juice with extra vitamin supplements of A, C and E. It's manufactured by the Austrian company Rauch and is available in supermarkets.

Optima
Omega

NU SKIN offers dietary supplements to help you achieve optimum health: LifePak, Tegreen, CordyMax and Optima Omega. These are manufactured by Pharmanex, an affiliate of Nu Skin Enterprises. Call its distributor hotline at 689-0333.

Read up on SARS prevention

Healthy Options

THE LATEST issue of Healthy Options News Digest, the newsletter of the popular health and fitness company, features articles offering advice on preventing SARS and similar diseases.

Its "War on SARS" article says the best prevention against the disease is to maintain both a healthy immune system and high standards of personal hygiene. The digest offers tips on boosting one's immunity the natural way, without using drugs.

Other helpful articles in the issue include an exploration of the links between stress and women's immune system dysfunctions, a rundown of age-defying nutrients, and a review of the latest book by John Gray titled "The Mars & Venus Diet and Exercise Solution."

The Healthy Options News Digest is available at all Healthy Options stores located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Ayala Center, Cebu City; SM City, North Edsa; SM City Manila; Greenbelt; SM Megamall; SM City Pampanga; and SM Bicutan.

Visit the website at www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

Sleepless? There's a way out!

AS NIGHT falls and the hours tick closer to bedtime, the thought of another sleepless night fills you with panic. You drink your calming tea and begin counting dozens of sheep, horses and wild cats. But by 1 a.m., you're still staring at the bedroom ceiling. You stop the urge to pop a sleeping pill because you've learned that these pills are not the answer. They leave you irritable and restless the next day.

If only there was something "natural" you could do.

Well, cheer up, there's hope. You may want to try Action Therapy, a program of 75 mind-body regimens to combat sleeplessness created by Norman Ford in his book "The Sleep Rx."

What kind of insomniac are you?

Insomnia can be caused by illnesses such as diabetes, anemia, depression, anxiety and heart disease, to name a few. In fact, insomnia is a symptom of more than 40 different disorders and diseases, most of which can be medically treated. See your doctor if you suspect any medical condition behind your sleeplessness, or if you think it's a side effect of a drug you're taking (like antihistamines, pain killers or sedatives).

Chronic benign insomnia, on the other hand, can be treated the natural way, unless you are suffering from a serious psychological or physical disorder.

Other causes of sleeplessness are depression, stress, anxiety, worry, caffeine, obesity, lack of creative mental activity, and a sedentary lifestyle.

Truth: The worst possible treatment for insomnia is drugs, as they are habit-forming. They lose any effect on your sleep problem in the long run.

Here are some steps to combat insomnia the natural way:

Rx 1: Change your habits. Use your bed only for sleeping. Don't do your homework or office work in it. Watch TV from a sofa. Don't take cat naps. Eat or snack on a table, not while lying down.

Rx 2: Go to bed only when drowsy. Don't be fixated on a fixed bedtime schedule. Retire only when you start yawning. Before going to bed, free your mind of disturbing thoughts and worries. Practice slow breathing. Relax in a comfortable position. Avoid sleeping on your back if you can. It cramps your back muscles, interferes with breathing and leads to snoring. Avoid sleeping on your stomach either, as it can lead to back aches.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

If you aren't sleep in 10 minutes, get up and do something not intellectually stimulating, like sewing or watering the indoor plants. Your wake time should be rigid, meaning you should get up every morning at the same hour, no matter how late you slept. This should regulate your body.

Rx 3: Have a "youthful" lifestyle! In short, exercise. This should help you sleep almost as soundly as a young person. Walking 15 minutes a day is enough to regulate your sleep patterns and keep you fit and healthy.

Or, you can improve your sleep simply by increasing your need for sleep. How? By increasing your level of mental and physical activities during the day.

Types of insomnia

Subjective insomnia—otherwise called sleep-onset insomnia—is difficulty falling asleep. If it takes you more than 30 minutes to fall asleep, you may have subjective insomnia.

There's also **sleep maintenance insomnia.** After 90 minutes of sleep, it is normal to briefly stir and turn. But if you wake up and don't sleep until 30 minutes after, then you have sleep maintenance insomnia.

Delayed sleep phase syndrome happens when your biological clock is out of sync with conventional sleeping hours; say, you sleep at 3 a.m. and get up at 11 a.m.

Unfinished sleep insomnia is when you fall asleep quickly but wake up at 4 a.m. and can't sleep anymore.

Finally, **disturbed sleep insomnia** is when you are awakened by a horrible nightmare and can't go back to sleep. (This is common in children).

How much sleep do you need?

Age, Average Hours Per Night: Newborn, 16.5 hrs; 6 months, 14 hrs; 2 years, 12.5 hrs; 6 years, 11 hrs; 10 years, 10 hrs; 12 years, 9 hrs; 15-19 years, 8.25 hrs; 20-29 years, 7.5 hrs; 30-49 years, 7 hrs; 50-59 years, 6.75 hrs; 60-79 years, 6.5 hrs; 80+, 6 hrs.

Are you a snorer?

It's not the end of the world if you are. Snorers aren't aware that they snore. Snoring occurs when a combination of flabby throat tongue muscles and fatty tissue relax, causing the jaw to slacken and the tongue to drop back on the palate. This obstruction blocks the air passage in the soft palate, and the pharynx vibrates in the air current that squeezes past. Snoring may lower the oxygen level in arteries, thus forcing the heart to work harder.

Rx for snorers: Avoid a high-fat meal rich in animal protein three hours before sleeping. Don't sleep on your back. If you must, use a low-level pillow. If your nose is congested, spray some kind of decongestant.

Bedtime habits

1. Take a hot bath or a soak bath. This relaxes your muscles. Add three drops of lavender aromatherapy oil mixed with 15 drops of almond oil to the water.

2. Drink a glass of warm, nonfat milk.

3. Do light stretching exercises.

4. Never go to bed hungry, angry or emotionally stressed. Calm down and cool off before retiring.

5. Take a natural sedative like calcium-magnesium with vitamin D, which is a neuro-muscular relaxant. Take 2 mg of melatonin, a hormone.

6. Our moods and sleep levels are largely influenced by the balance between serotonin and norepinephrine. In order for us to sleep better, tryptophan, an amino acid, must find its way to the brain in order to release serotonin. To help this along, eat a light dinner of protein, vegetables, carbohydrates and fat at 6:30 p.m. Then, two hours before bedtime, take a purely carbohydrate snack (oatmeal, pasta, brown rice, barley, sweet potatoes, potatoes, bananas, melon, dates, figs, nuts, avocado, beans).

7. Do light relaxation or meditation exercises like this one: Sit at the edge of your bed and close your eyes. Imagine you are in your ideal or fantasy spot (a seashore in Boracay, a mountain top in the Himalayas, a craterside view in Tagaytay, a sunset in the Sahara). Now repeat to yourself: "I am completely relaxed and ready for a good night's sleep." Sweet dreams!

Nestle's Nutren invites clubs and associations to a whole-day workshop dubbed "Total Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit", with Cory Quirino and Jimmy Licauco, at P400 only. Learn about stress control, self-healing, health and beauty regimens and self-empowerment. Call 898-0001 local 7183 (Hazel) or local 6713 (Jean).

Beauty and fitness seminar for women

OLEN Lim

JOANNE Zapanta-Andrada

COSMO editor in chief Myrza Sison

STEPHANIE Dychiu

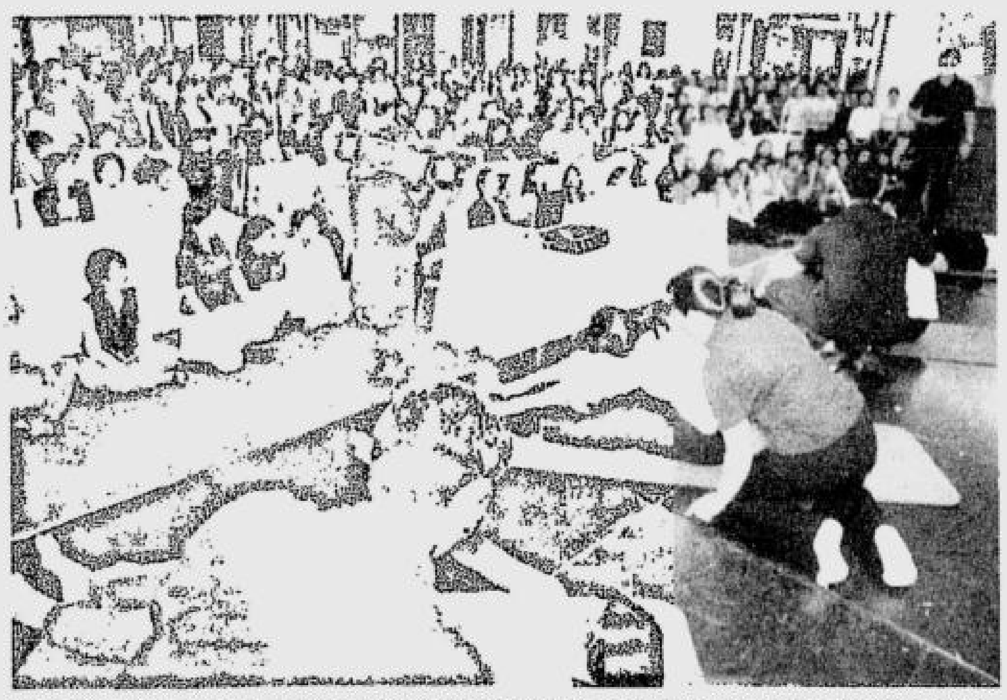
COSMOPOLITAN Philippines and One Woman Show Inc. recently hosted the Cosmo Goes to Work with Women and the City 2003 seminar at the Manansala Ballroom of the Galleria Suites.

Hosted by Cosmopolitan Philippines editor in chief Myrza Sison, the seminar featured speakers such as Seventeen editor in chief Maya Calica, who discussed the importance of having self-esteem, and model-turned-corporate image consultant Olen Lim, who taught the participants how to properly market themselves.

Stephanie Dychiu, managing director for the custom publishing division of Summit Media, gave pointers on how to make money grow, while communication expert Meg Doromal talked about verbal and non-verbal communication. Former model and makeup artist Lala Flores and presidential wardrobe consultant Joanne Zapanta-Andrada also gave tips on good makeup and corporate dressing.

The seminar closed with a Pilates demonstration by Paolo Villaroel and Cheska Tiu-Laurel, cofounders of Core Fitness, and some lessons in basic self-defense from defense tactics instructor Pichon Garcia.

LALA Flores teaches Cosmo career women how to enhance their best features.



CHESKA Tiu-Laurel and Paolo Villaroel of Core Fitness catch the audience's attention with a Pilates demonstration

PICHON Garcia shows the audience how to defend themselves when they're being attacked.

SEVENTEEN editor in chief Maya Calica talks about self-esteem.

MEG Doromal explains the importance of effective communication skills.

Antioxidants: key to staying young and healthy

HOW can we make our later years as vibrant, active and meaningful as our earlier ones?

Research suggests that the best therapy against aging is to limit the damage to DNA with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, and to treat DNA with the Growth Hormone Enhancement Program of diet, exercise, and GH releasers.

The Growth Hormone Enhancement Program uses GH releases or agonists, substances that induce the release of growth hormone from the pituitary gland.

Here is a guide to the natural substances that have been shown to increase growth hormone levels, provided by Healthy Options, the popular health and fitness store.

Note: If you are using any of these GH-releasers, be sure to take a high potency daily vitamin, antioxidant complex, and mineral supplement so that the nutrients that the body needs to build cells and tissue are present.

Amino Acids. These are needed to make the proteins of enzymes and many hormones, including muscle, bone, skin, organs, etc.

Arginine. Arginine is said to increase fat-burning and muscle-building tissue, increase the weight and activity of the thymus gland, boost immunity, fight cancer, promote healing of bums and other wounds, protect the liver and detoxify harmful substances, and enhance male fertility.

Omithine. On a per gram basis, omithine is about double the effectiveness (and cost) of arginine.

Lysine. A combination of lysine and arginine may increase thymic hormone secretion in older animals and humans, partially reversing the immunodeficiency of aging.

Glutamine. The amino acid most used by the body, particularly during times of stress. If the body does not produce enough glutamine, muscle loss and immune dysfunction can occur.

OKG (L-ornithine Alpha-Ketoglutarate). OKG is a nutrient consisting of ornithine bound to two molecules of alpha ketoglutarate, which is a precursor to glutamine and has GH-stimulating effects.

Glycine. Two studies found that this amino acid increased GH in the serum, indicating that glycine is one of the stimulatory agents to induce the pituitary gland to secrete HGH.

Niacin. Niacin may reverse atherosclerosis, lowers serum cholesterol by an average of 25 percent and triglycerides by up to 52 percent, and raises HDL levels by 33 percent.

GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate). GHB, a naturally occurring substance found in the human body, is both a precursor and a breakdown product of GABA (gamma-amino butyfic acid), a neurotransmitter that is involved in the regulation of the anterior pituitary gland, which secretes growth hormone.

Healthy Options stores are located at the following: level 1 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; level 2 of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; ground level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor of SM City, North Edsa; level 2 of SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; at level 2 of SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga and now in SM Bicutan.

Skin protection pays off

ARE more Filipinos in danger of being afflicted with skin cancer? Statistics show that this may not be the case, especially if many people will continue to heed public health reminders, like staying sun-safe and avoiding cancer-causing agents and habits such as overexposure to sunlight.

Though it afflicts both sexes, skin cancer incidence in the Philippines is relatively low. "The risk of getting skin cancer because of exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays is highest among vulnerable races," surgical oncologist Dr. Adriano Laudico of the Philippine General Hospital said.

Fortunately for Filipinos, they are at lesser risk compared to foreigners, especially those in Northern Europe, to such serious skin conditions as melanoma. Nonetheless, overexposure to the sun is still not good—it may destroy the skin's elastic and collagen fibers, and contribute to premature wrinkling.

Who needs sun protection products like sunscreen then? In a word: everyone.

Using sunscreen daily, preferably a broad-spectrum one with an SPF of at least 15, is highly recommended. studies show that antioxidants make sunscreen more effective.

Nowadays, a vast array of antioxidants like Vitamins C and E ward off skin-damaging free radicals (by-products of oxygen metabolism that can damage cells and are among the causes of many degenerative diseases, especially those associated with aging).

SkinCeuticals antioxidants with optimal concentration of L-ascorbic acid at 20 percent and L-ascorbic acid at 5 percent (ideal for undereye application) are used as anti-aging remedies, reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and boosting the lightening benefits of a skin lightening product.

For maximum sun protection, use Vitamins C and E and put sunblock on it. Only SkinCeuticals carries a stable formulation of Vitamins C and E in one single product offering four times more sun protection over using Vitamin C or Vitamin E alone.

Skinceuticals offers topnotch sunblock in 20, 30 and 45 SPF. This SkinCeuticals sunblock is formulated with the patented Z-cote, a sunlight-blocking ingredient called zinc oxide which is transparent so you can wear it without looking very white, and is very suitable even with make-up, contributing to a cosmetically elegant look. There are plenty of low-priced sunblock nowadays which, when applied, streak and make your face look oily and too white. With SkinCeuticals, you can acquire an attractive matte-finish or a natural-looking sun-kissed effect.

E-mail dmark888@info.com.ph or call 242-4242 or 242-3636.

LIFESTYLE

CONSUMPTION by almost 1 billion people in developed countries and 800 million in developing countries is putting pressure on natural ecosystems.

> While high-income countries accounted for about 80 percent of household consumption in 1998, low-income nations contributed only 4 percent

Rising consumption depletes resources

By Linda B. Bolido

RISING and unsustainable consumption patterns, fueled by both changing lifestyles and population increases, are wreaking havoc on the environment.

A background paper prepared for the recent Asia Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns pointed out that sustainable development, or development that adequately met today's basic needs while providing for future requirements, was difficult to achieve because of ballooning consumption.

The conference held in Yogyakarta was organized by the Indonesian government and United Nations Environment Program, in cooperation with the UN Development Program and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The paper, "Forging New Paths to Sustainable Development," reported that significant results had been achieved in recent years in developing and promoting production systems and methods that were mindful of the need to conserve and protect resources, particularly non-renewable materials.

Such gains, however, were being negated by overall increases in consumption levels.

"The problem is that population growth and economic development are driving increases in consumption levels, which has the effect of negating environmental improvements made at the production side. Increased consumption levels by almost 1 billion consumers in developed countries and 800 million middle-high income consumers in developing countries is putting unprecedented pressure on natural ecosystems," the document stressed.

Statistics cited by the paper put the problem in even more graphic-and alarming-terms.

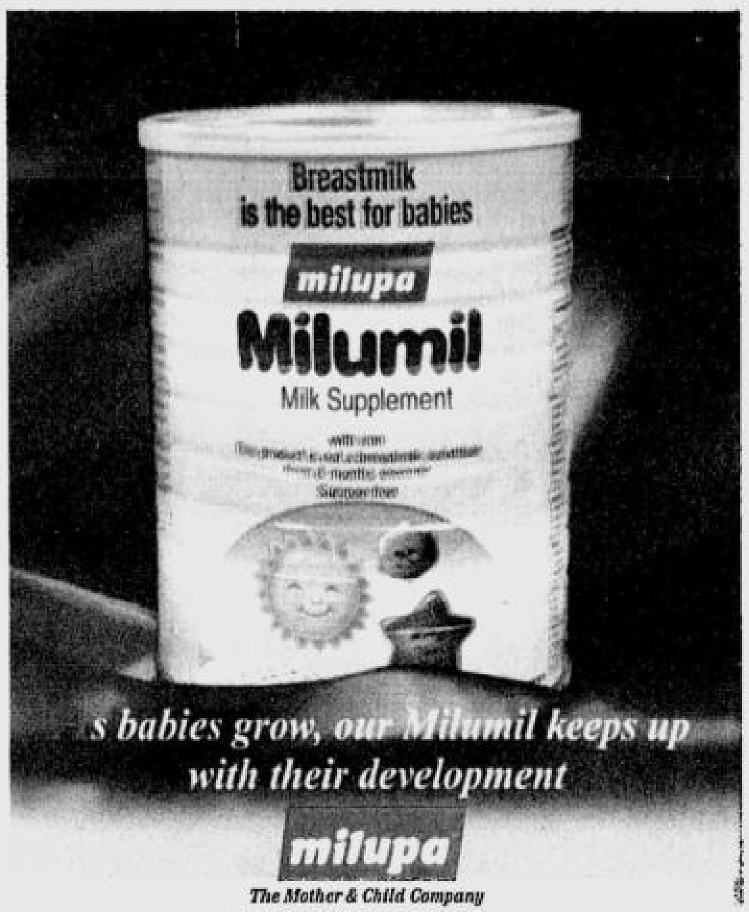
"Greenhouse gas emissions continue to climb, world forest cover has declined by 2.4 percent since 1990, and a third of global fish stocks are at serious risk," it pointed out. (Greenhouse gases trap heat and prevent it from escaping into the atmosphere, causing an effect similar to that in a greenhouse. This contributes to the problem of global warming, or the rise in earth's average temperature, that is expected to cause a major upheaval in the world's ecosystems.)

The document also noted, that although middle-high income consumption in developing countries was growing, some 2.8 billion people lived on less than US$2 a day. These people's consumption patterns, while drastically different from the more affluent's, were also contributing significantly to current environmental problems.

It had been repeatedly pointed out that poverty drove people to exploit their environment without regard for long-term consequences.

The Yogyakarta document reiterated the message. "Social and environmental concerns, such as poverty, health, labor rights, deforestation, air pollution and bio

RISING/ D4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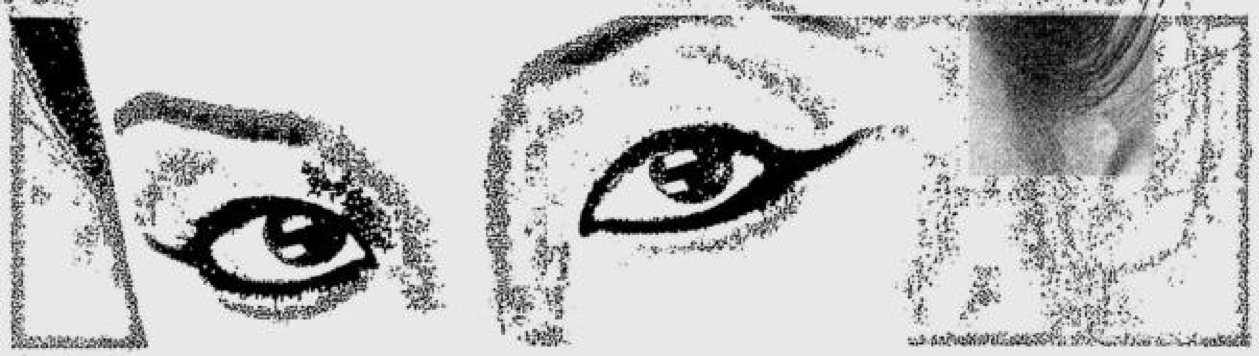

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815-3121	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583	243-8602	920-7992	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
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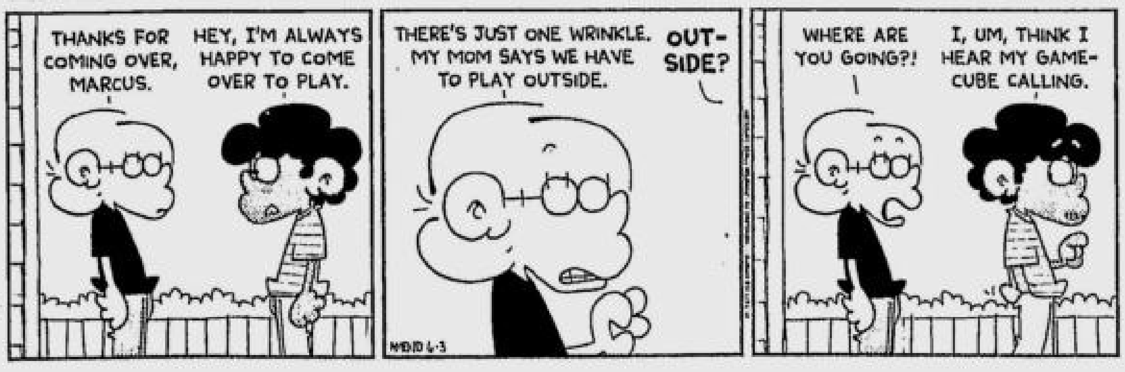
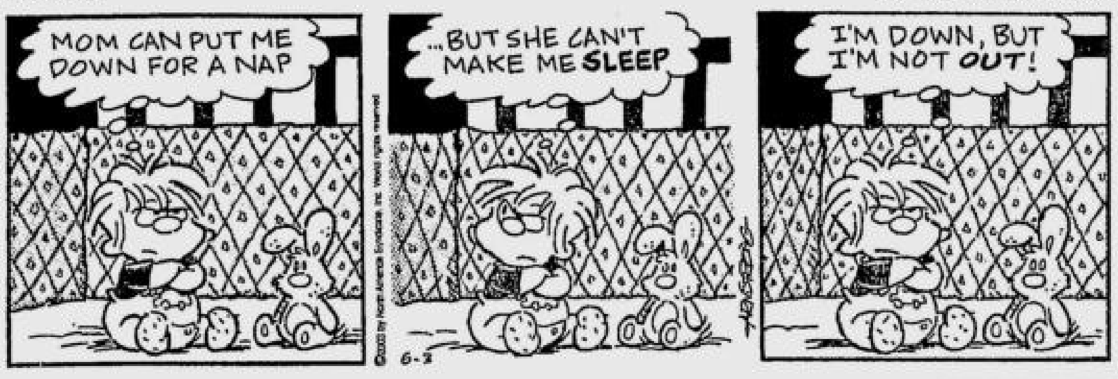
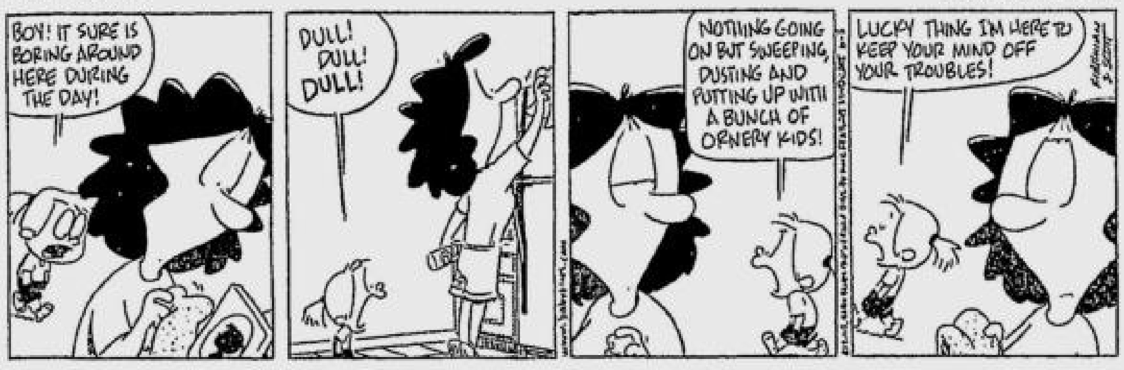
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


THANKS FOR COMING OVER, MARCUS.
HEY, I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO COME OVER TO PLAY.
THERE'S JUST ONE WRINKLE. MY MOM SAYS WE HAVE TO PLAY OUTSIDE.
OUT-SIDE?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I, UM, THINK I HEAR MY GAME-CUBE CALLING.

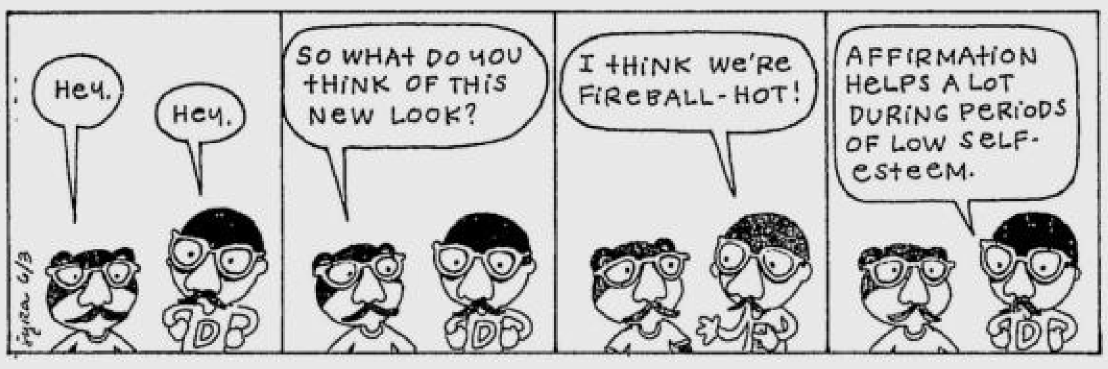
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOM CAN PUT ME DOWN FOR A NAP
...BUT SHE CAN'T MAKE ME SLEEP
I'M DOWN, BUT I'M NOT OUT!

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


BOY! IT SURE IS BORING AROUND HERE DURING THE DAY!
DULL! DULL! DULL!
NOTHING GOING ON BUT SWEEPING, DUSTING AND PUTTING UP WITH A BUNCH OF ORNERY KIDS!
LUCKY THING I'M HERE TO KEEP YOUR MIND OFF YOUR TROUBLES!

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey.
Hey.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS NEW LOOK?
I THINK WE'RE FIREBALL-HOT!
AFFIRMATION HELPS A LOT DURING PERIODS OF LOW SELF-ESTEEM.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you have a strong need to communicate to others, you have especially effective verbal skills. You can convince anyone of anything! And you do it with wit and charm. Be light on your toes this year because major changes lie ahead—exciting changes. (Possibly as significant as in 1994.)
Birthdate of: Josephine Baker, singer; Larry McMurtry, writer; Tony Curtis, actor/painter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel strongly about your possessions today, or perhaps your money. You don't need to fight about anything; simply hold your ground in a calm, clear way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might feel you have to defend your ideas or beliefs with someone today. It will take some courage, because this individual could be an authority figure in your life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't let others try to talk you into what they believe. Listen to your own conscience and your own heart, and then decide for yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might have to deal with a friend who is touchy about shared property, joint holdings or something that is loaned or borrowed. Be diplomatic.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be careful about identifying too strongly with your own point of view today. This makes you look threatened. Don't look for battles or create issues where they don't exist.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Arguments and debates might take place at work today with co-workers. These might have nothing to do with work and everything to do with religious, philosophical questions. Just listen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Serious discussions with young people (perhaps your own children) about assuming responsibility for something take place today. Always teach young minds to follow the highest good.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Avoid arguments with partners and family members today. Tension and chaos at home can easily create impatience. Treat loved ones with courtesy. If you feel irritated, count to five before you speak.

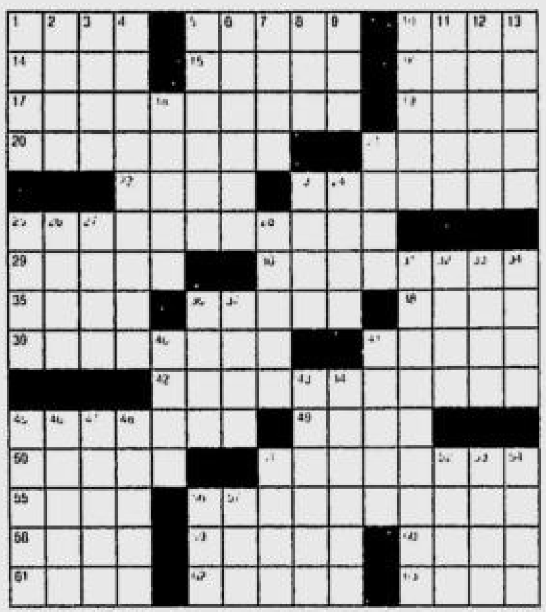
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Feelings of repressed rage or restless energy might make you act too impulsively. Stay alert and slow down!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Debates about how much money to spend on children or on having fun in an entertaining or recreational way might arise today. (Remember, no two people spend money the same way.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Disagreements with family members are highly likely today. Keep in mind that with Mars in your sign you are unusually aggressive now. Put a lid on it, and try to promote peaceful feelings at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Take extra precautions driving, biking, skateboarding and walking. An aggressive energy could tempt you to take a risk. Don't do it. Think twice before you move too quickly.

DAILY CROSSWORD


By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA
6/3/03

ACROSS
1 Sand-castle mold
5 Friendly contests
10 Shocked sound
14 "M*A*S*H" star
15 Mournful poem
16 Pac-10 school
17 City on the Delaware
19 Hawaiian fete
20 Helmsmen
21 Works for
22 Church part
23 Porter's tote
25 City on the Tennessee
29 Eagle's abode
30 Simpsons' neighbor
35 Keystone State founder
36 Collegiate starter?
38 Former males
39 Grace
41 "Like a Rock" rocker
42 Michigan city on namesake river
45 Redwood
49 Yours and mine
50 Twisted forcibly
51 Hungarian capital
55 Oklahoma city
56 City on the Wabash
58 Dietary, in ads
59 Movie mermaid
60 Motley __
61 Salacious look
62 Noah or Wallace
63 Long, long time periods

DOWN
1 Cat's feet
2 Deplaned
3 Inactive
4 Expressing grief
5 City on Seneca Lake
6 "The Man with the Golden Arm" writer
7 New York nine
8 Conceit
9 Thesaurus wd.
10 "The __ Archipelago"
11 Integra maker
12 Jargon
13 Hesitation
18 Really angry
21 First governor of Alaska
23 Tree trunk
24 Petri dish medium
25 __ Fear River
26 Command to Fido
27 English composer
28 Frequently
31 Beyond the solar system
32 Former serviceman
33 Lou or Walter
34 Russ. and Lat., once
36 Calvary initials
37 March Madness org.
40 Highly excited
41 __ Jessica Parker
43 More sullen
44 Impolitely
45 Jim-dandy
46 Pyle or Kovacs
47 Completely
48 Beneath
51 Runny cheese
52 Continental money
53 Knock senseless
54 Shirts for golfers?
56 Keyboard key
57 Afore

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	C	T	■	S	H	A	D	■	O	P	E	R	A
E	L	L	A	■	T	A	P	E	■	R	A	Y	E	D
R	O	A	R	■	E	R	A	S	■	A	M	E	N	D
F	I	N	G	E	R	P	R	I	N	T	■	W	E	E
■	■	■	E	L	I	O	T	■	E	E	R	I	E	R
H	O	S	T	E	L	■	■	S	A	D	A	T	■	■
A	T	M	■	G	E	I	S	E	L	■	S	N	E	L
S	T	O	R	Y	■	G	I	G	■	C	H	E	A	P
P	O	K	E	■	T	O	B	A	G	O	■	S	S	E
■	■	I	N	F	E	R	■	■	A	D	R	I	F	T
M	E	N	T	O	R	■	P	A	L	E	D	■	■	■
A	N	C	■	D	N	A	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E
R	A	G	E	D	■	G	A	E	L	■	R	O	L	L
E	T	U	D	E	■	A	C	R	E	■	L	O	A	M
S	E	N	O	R	■	R	E	T	E	■	E	N	D	S

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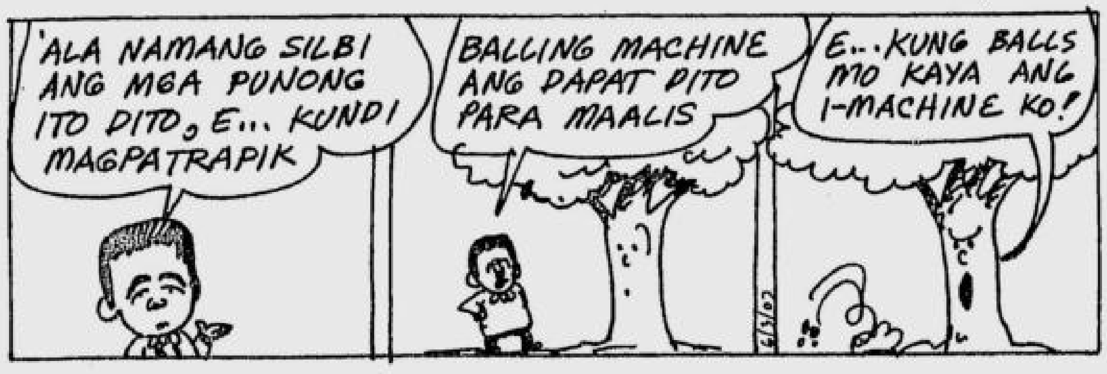
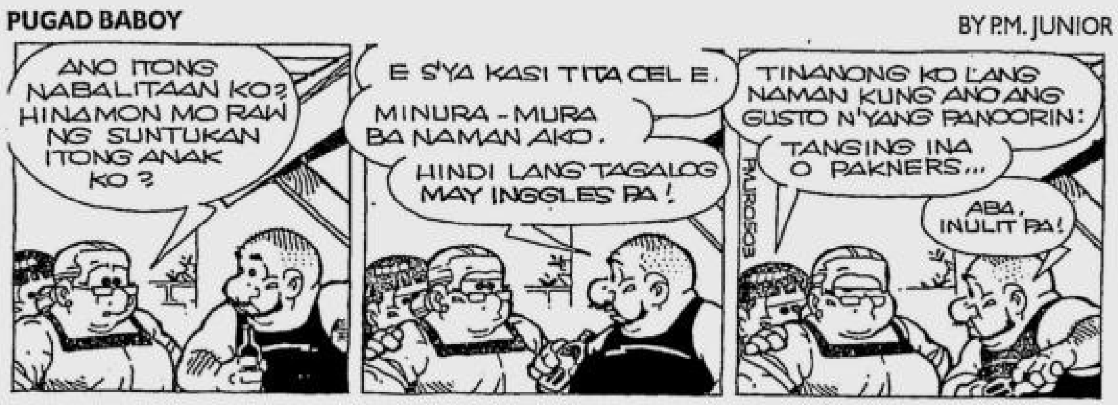
6/3/03

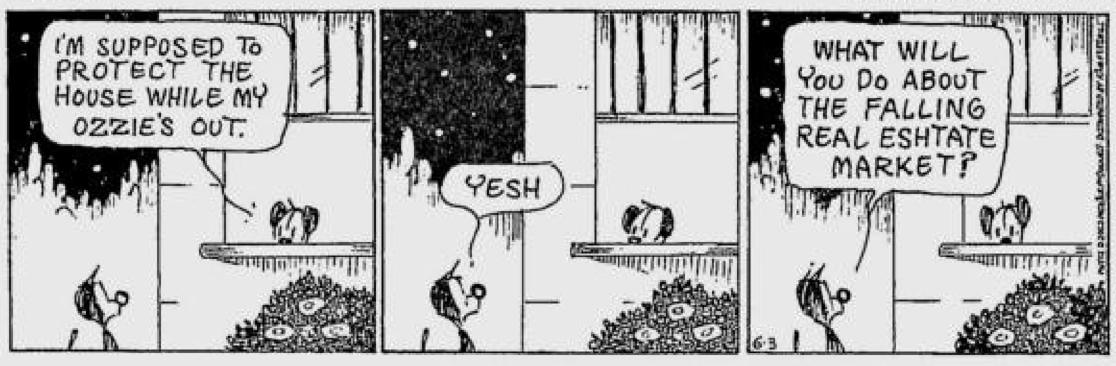
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


'ALA NAMANG SILBI ANG MGA PUNONG ITO DITO, E... KUNDI MAGPATRAPIK
BALLING MACHINE ANG DAPAT DITO PARA MAALIS
E...KUNG BALLS MO KAYA ANG I-MACHINE KO!

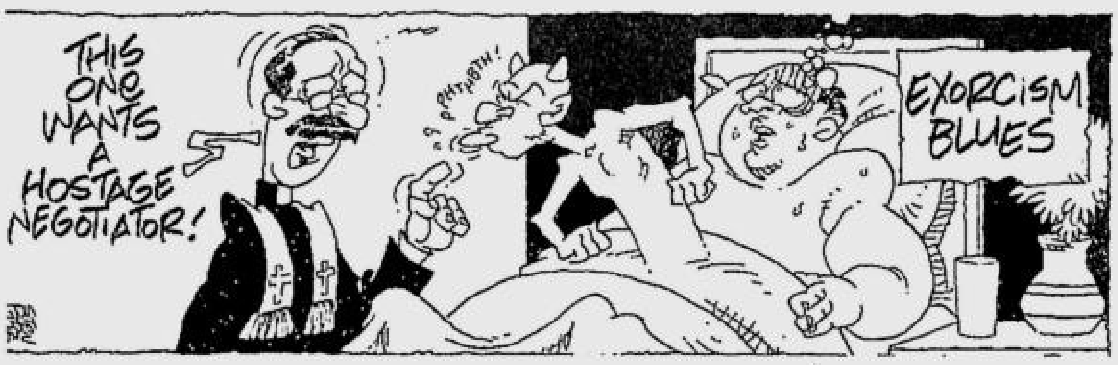
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO ITONG NABALITAAN KO? HINAMON MO RAW NG SUNTUKAN ITONG ANAK KO?
E S'YA KASI TITA CEL E.
MINURA-MURA BA NAMAN AKO.
HINDI LANG TAGALOG MAY INGGLES PA!
TINANONG KO LANG NAMAN KUNG ANO ANG GUSTO N'YANG PANOORIN:
TANGING INA O PAKNERS...
ABA, INULIT PA!

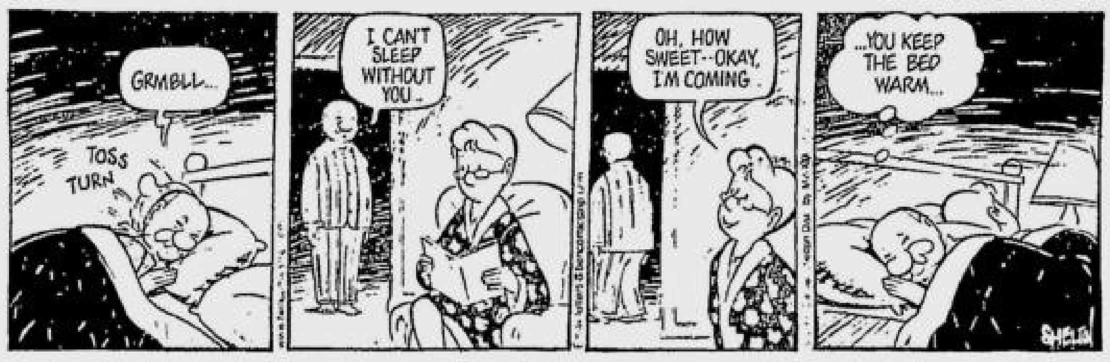
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE HOUSE WHILE MY OZZIE'S OUT.
YESH
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT THE FALLING REAL ESHTATE MARKET?

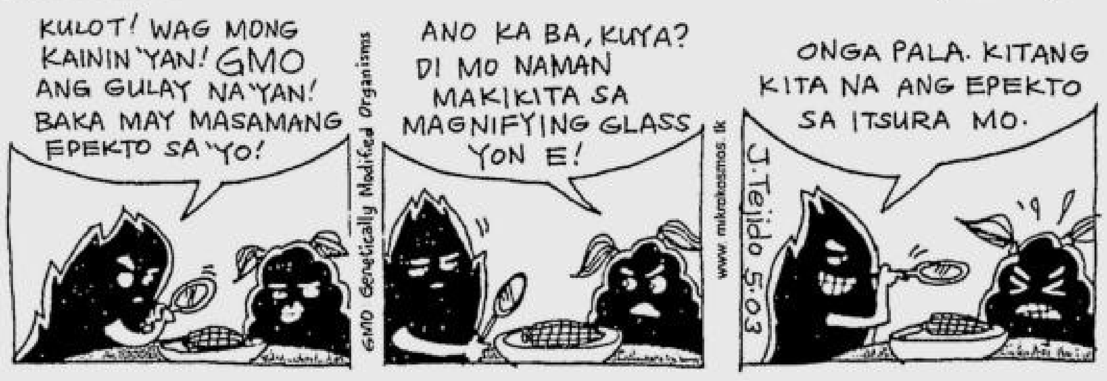
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THIS ONE WANTS A HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR!
PHTHBTH!
EXORCISM BLUES

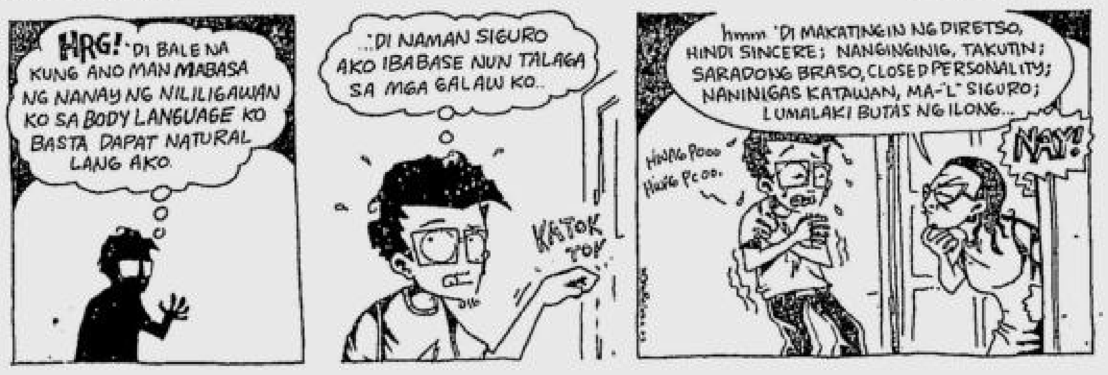
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRMBLL...
TOSS TURN
I CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT YOU...
OH, HOW SWEET--OKAY, I'M COMING.
...YOU KEEP THE BED WARM...

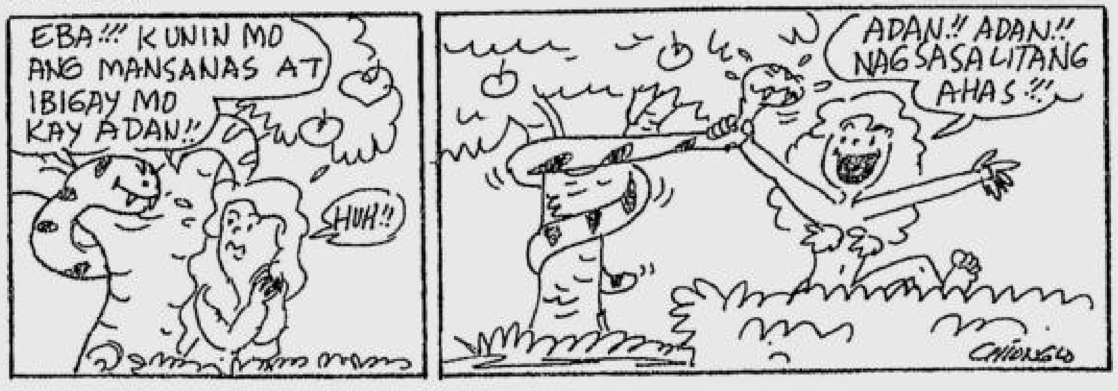
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT! WAG MONG KAININ 'YAN! GMO ANG GULAY NA 'YAN! BAKA MAY MASAMANG EPEKTO SA 'YO!
GMO Genetically Modified Organisms
ANO KA BA, KUYA? DI MO NAMAN MAKIKITA SA MAGNIFYING GLASS YON E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 5.03
ONGA PALA. KITANG KITA NA ANG EPEKTO SA ITSURA MO.

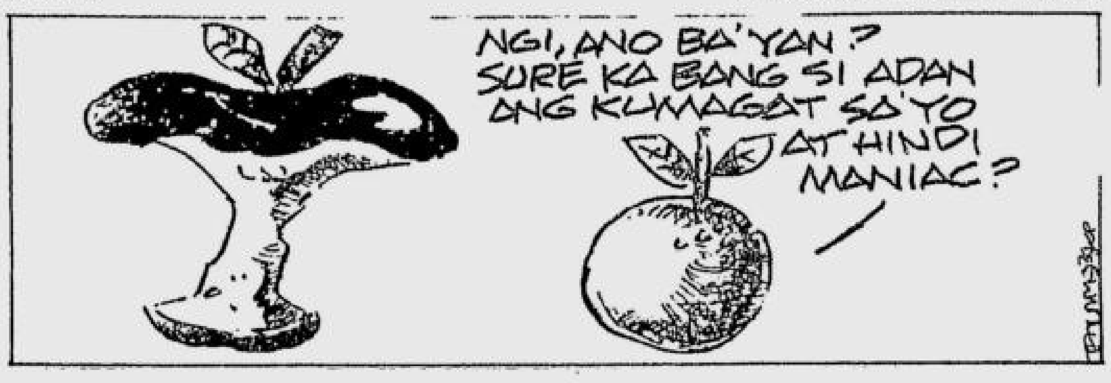
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


HRG! 'DI BALE NA KUNG ANO MAN MABASA NG NANAY NG NILILIGAWAN KO SA BODY LANGUAGE KO BASTA DAPAT NATURAL LANG AKO.
..'DI NAMAN SIGURO AKO IBABASE NUN TALAGA SA MGA GALAW KO..
KATOK TOK
hmm 'DI MAKATINGIN NG DIRETSO, HINDI SINCERE; NANGINGINIG, TAKUTIN; SARADONG BRASO, CLOSED PERSONALITY; NANINIGAS KATAWAN, MA-"L" SIGURO; LUMALAKI BUTAS NG ILONG...
HANG POOO HANG POOO.
NAY!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


EBA!!! KUNIN MO ANG MANSANAS AT IBIGAY MO KAY ADAN!!
HUH!!
ADAN!! ADAN!! NAGSASALITANG AHAS!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

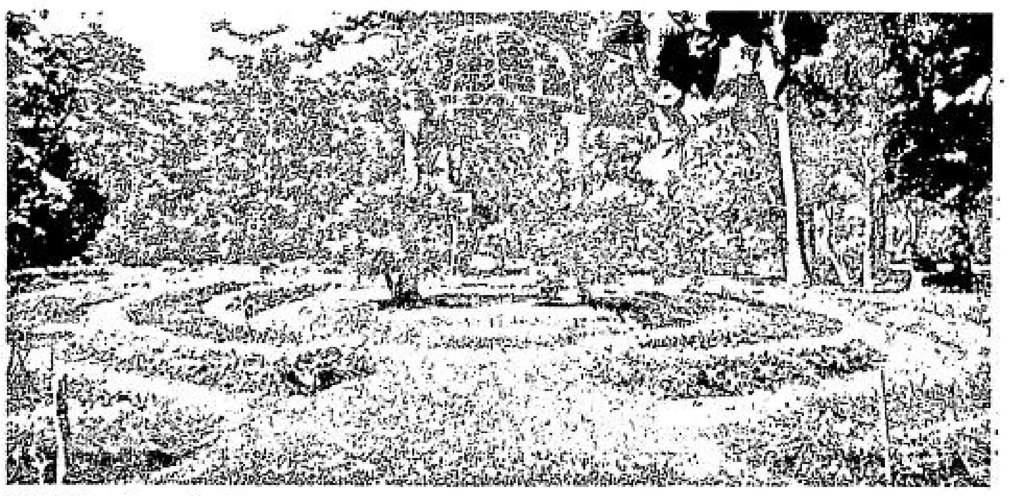

NGI, ANO BA'YAN? SURE KA BANG SI ADAN ANG KUMAGAT SA'YO AT HINDI MANIAC?

ENTRANCE to the Japanese Garden

MAY Palacio, IGSF president, rests under the *langka* tree.

Naga's prodigy of nature

WILD *bignay* berries


ROSE Garden and arbor

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IN 1999, the Isarog Garden Society Foundation (IGSF) of Naga City envisioned a garden—a fun and safe place where children could play and engage their imaginations and where adults could commune with nature and rejuvenate.

So the group held fund-raisers and asked financial help from friends here and abroad to develop the Naga City Ecology Park in barangay San Felipe.

Built on a 5-hectare lot provided by the city government, the park was opened to the public on May 19. A minimum entrance fee of P10 is collected per visitor to help finance its maintenance.

"Many things still need to be done at this eco park. Its permanent fencing, watering system and main pavilion are hardly finished. Our work continues until it becomes a major tourist attraction of the Bicol Region. And I commend all IGSF members for joining me in this voluntary commitment," said May Palacio, IGSF president.

The IGSF is a private, nonprofit, nonpolitical organization of plant lovers and environment-conscious individuals.

Other officers include Sylvia Lucena, vice president; Ronique Rosales, secretary; Dollie Chavez, treasurer; and Norma Villar, auditor.

Showcase of culture

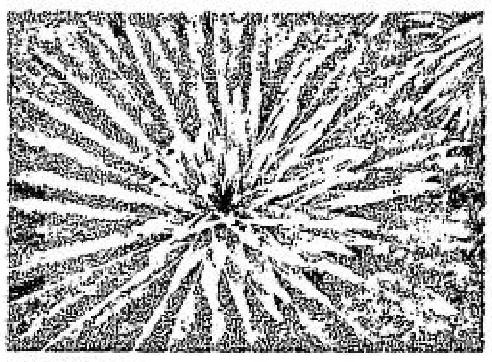
Palacio believes that parks not only offer an affordable way to explore the natural beauty of the great outdoors, but also provide travelers the opportunity to learn about a place's heritage and culture.

"A park is where people in a community can relax to escape the pressures of city life, a quiet place where one can sit under a tree, breathe fresh air, listen to the song of a bird or pray," she said.

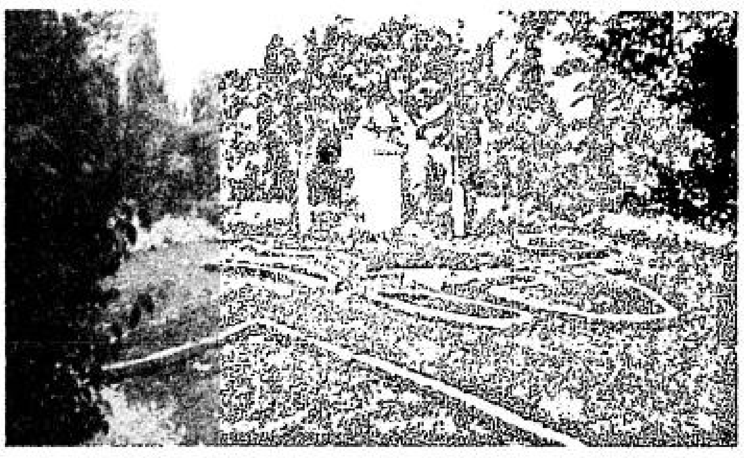
In Naga, the other parks are Plaza Rizal, Quezon Circle and Plaza Quince Martires.

Palacio said that parks provide residents with a safe, aesthetically appealing facility for active and passive recreation.

"Such projects also help foster a sense of community unity and enhance the beauty and cleanliness of an area," she said.


"OLIVE" Palm

FISH Tail Palm


BICOL Map Garden

ADELFA

The Naga City Ecology Park is a showcase of both nature's bounty and public-private cooperation to promote a gentler, kinder urban existence

Park gardens

The Naga City Ecology Park features a topiary garden, Japanese garden, healing garden, rose arbor, maze, mini-forest, and an orchard and exotic palm garden.

It also has Marian shrines such as Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

"With the aid of donors, sponsors and friends, the eco park is an attempt of the IGSF at landscape architecture. It's also concerned with promoting the comfort, convenience and health of the urban population," Palacio said.

The Department of Arts and Sciences of the University of Nueva Caceres adopted and developed the Healing Garden, which is planted with medicinal plants and herbs. Dr. Clarita Padilla, Armin Fullante and Maria Trinidad supervise the students who maintain the garden.

The Topiary Garden is a project of the Diamond Ladies.

Ray and Kim Altarejos, who came all the way from the United States, donated the Japanese Garden, which they dedicated to the late Fr. Raul Bonoan, rector of the Ateneo de Naga University.

On the other hand, the Rotary Club of Naga East donated garden tools.

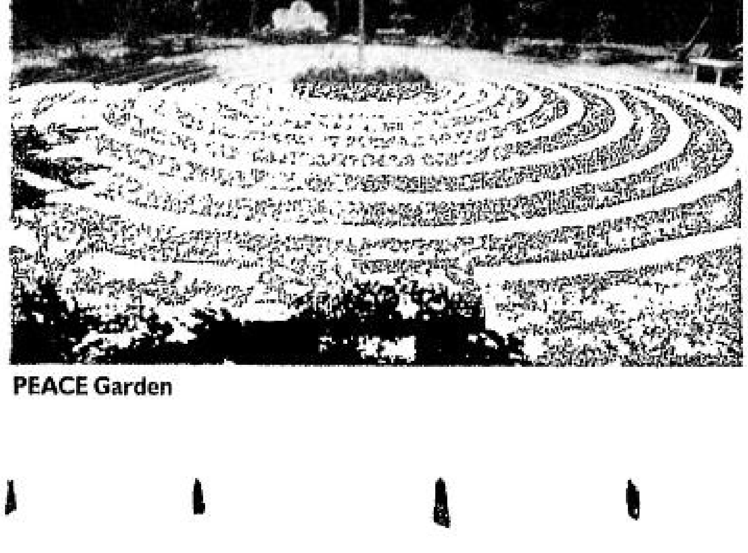
Rep. James Jacob apportioned P800,000 of his Countrywide Development Fund for the riff-raffing of the creek and the concreting of the entrance driveway.

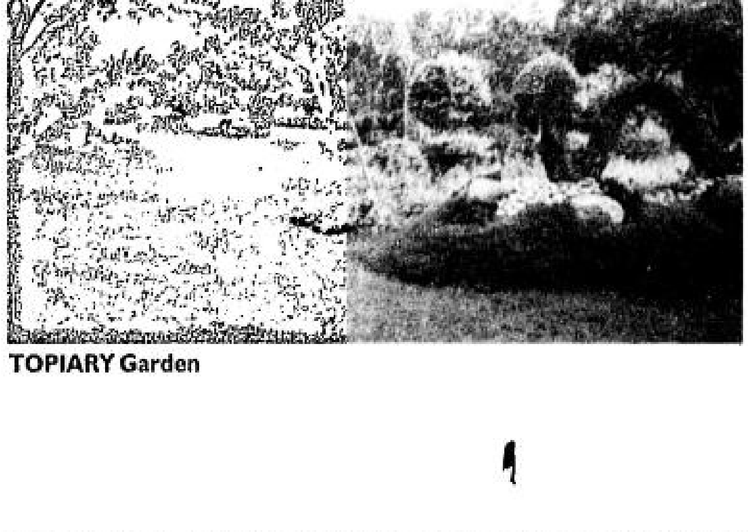
The Knights of Columbus Caceres Council has adopted the Orchard.

The Knights of Rizal has completed a water garden and lagoon.

"The eco park may be said to be a bold municipal enterprise by the City of Naga," Palacio said. "We hope that this park is just the beginning of bold enterprises that will be undertaken by the city government. We're looking forward to a forest park in barangay Carolina or Panicuason. Perhaps, other groups will be interested to sponsor such project."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph


PEACE Garden


TOPIARY Garden

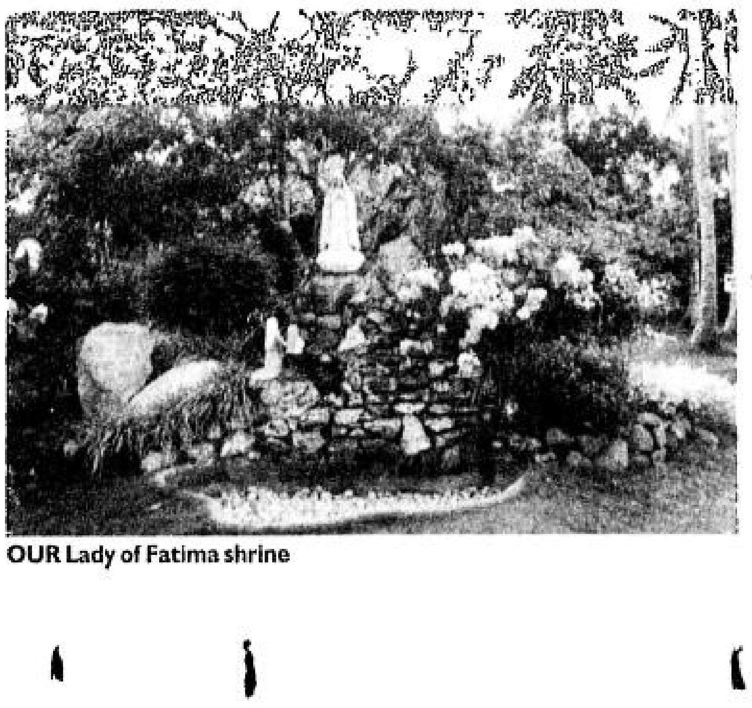

OUR Lady of Fatima shrine

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

It takes at least 20 years to destroy a plastic bag

Shopping with a difference

By Oscar Landicho
Contributor

THE WHOLE idea of shopping is fast changing.

Community outrage, protection of the environment, saving energy and consumer participation are the main reasons why shopping will soon become different.

Many countries have already declared war against the use of shopping plastic bags to protect the environment. And this should be so as it takes at least 20 years to destroy a plastic bag.

In Australia, retailers have been told to have the use of plastic bags by July or bags may be banned. Some 6.9 billion plastic bags are used each year in Australia.

Retailers in many countries are urged to have greater commitment to curb the use of plastic bags.

When I was in Japan in the late '90s, I was told that some department stores were reducing the prices of goods when shoppers don't require plastic bags or wrappers.

Promoting cloth bags

Some department stores in many countries are now selling their own shopping cloth bags to curb the use of plastic bags.

Other food retailers are starting to introduce a new technology where shoppers do the checkout of the good they are buying. That is, instead of check-out operators employed by food retailers, shoppers do the job of check-out operators and obtain discounts.

In our country, it is important to go back to basics. Instead of plastic bags, shoppers should bring baskets, and market vendors should use banana leaves instead of plastic bags. This is what our grandmothers used to do. As a result, there was no flooding on streets, and the streets, canals, Pasig River and *esteros* were clean.

With the onset of the rainy season, retailers and shoppers should seriously consider not using plastic bags to help solve street flooding and enjoy a clean environment.

War against plastic

Green group Planet Ark is very active in its war against the use of shopping plastic bags.

Australia Environment Minister David Kemp says, "Clearly, there is a lot of momentum building to cut back on plastic bags and substitute alternatives where possible. It's really community outrage that gave us the capacity to impose some pretty tough targets on the industry by asking 50 percent reduction in the use of plastic bags."

Coles Bay, a town in Tasmania, an Australian state, was the first area to be declared free of plastic bags last month.

It was quietly followed by a dozen other Australian towns expressing interest to curb the use of shopping plastic bags.

Because of the Australian government's declaration of war against the use of shopping plastic bags, retailers are already offering discounts if shoppers bring their own cloth bags.

Planet Ark is also busy campaigning to introduce a levy on shopping plastic bags as is being done in Ireland.

Shoppers in Great Britain also support the idea of curbing the use of shopping plastic bags.

In Germany, shopping plastic bags are not free of charge. You have to buy them and reuse them when you do your shopping again.

Every year, the Clean Up campaign and supermarkets in many countries are reducing the use of plastic bags.

If Filipinos join the campaign to use less shopping plastic bags, we can immediately see the benefit of having a clean environment.

Beachfront village with no water problems

IT'S a predicament that confronts most coastal property developments: When land is along shorelines (where water is saline and unfit for human consumption), little can be done to extract freshwater from them in quantities substantial enough to support larger developments.

Real estate developer Edge Properties Development Corp. (EPDC) has come up with a novel solution for Kawayan Cove, its residential beach community creation.

The cove consists of 61 hectares that will have 250 view lots. EPDC also acquired an adjacent 30-ha flatlands property that, tests had shown, contained a significant supply of freshwater.

EPDC drilled deep wells on the adjacent property and installed powerful pumps, injection wells and reservoir water tanks to deliver water to a main reservoir high above Kawayan Cove.

Kawayan Cove is a mere two-hour, 110-km drive from Manila. Call Bettina H. Pou at 845-1581/1266, 843-9136 or e-mail epdc2@mozcom.com.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I could not get an appointment with my doctor soon enough, so I went to the emergency room for care. I was asked to pay for the services given to me. Why?

Emergency rooms are for the care of life and limb-threatening injuries. They are not for routine care. If you need to see a physician and feel your appointment is not scheduled soon enough, speak to the medical coordinator for other options available. Another doctor may be able to see you, or you may be referred to another medical facility.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Genaro A. Bermudez is our accredited specialist at St. Luke's Medical Center. He joined MEDICard in 2001. Dr. Bermudez finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and his residency for his specialization in Pediatrics and subspecialization in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC). He is also an assistant professor-II for Pediatrics at MCU-FDTMF and a visiting consultant at the PCMC. Members may visit him for consultations at Room 526 of the Medical Arts Bldg., every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9 AM to 12 noon.

After finishing his degree in Medicine at St. Louis University, **Dr. Ednar M. Lacay** chose to specialize in Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. He also subspecializes in Sports Medicine and Arthroscopic Surgery, which he took at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. He is a family man and enjoys spending quality time with his wife Gemma Lacay, a dermatologist and their three wonderful children. Members may visit him for consultations at his clinic in Sta. Clara De Montefalco Medical Center, Km. 20, North Diversion Rd., Bulacan, from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 10 AM to 12 noon.

For dental consultations in the province of Cebu, members may seek the services of **Dr. Reymund G. Godinez.** Dr. Rey, one of the recent additions to our accredited dental healthcare specialists, has been in the practice of his profession for more than 12 years now. He finished Dentistry at Southwestern University then took specialization training for Orthodontics and diseases of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Members may see Dr. Rey at his clinic, the Godinez Ortho-dental clinic located at Pondol, Balamban, Cebu City. Clinic hours are from Mondays to Sundays, 8 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

POPULATION growth and economic development are driving increases in consumption levels.

Rising consumption . . .

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diversity loss are inextricably linked to unsustainable patterns of consumption and production," it said.

While there had been "unparalleled economic activity" and significant achievements in human development, the paper also noted that, "The world's population has doubled to 6.2 billion since 1950, while the gross world product has expanded sevenfold in the same period. Such trends have resulted in large increases in production and consumption of energy, materials and consumer goods."

Paperless society's still a dream

In fact, as the report pointed out, the paperless society, which many people thought would follow the widespread use of computer and the introduction of wireless communication technologies, remained a distant goal. "For instance, global oil consumption and paper production have both more than tripled since the early 1960s," it said.

The paper also reported:

- Spending on overall household consumption rose by 68 percent between 1980 and 1998 throughout the world.
- High-income countries accounted for about 80 percent of the total US$19.3 trillion in household consumption in 1998. On the other hand, low-income countries contributed only four percent of all private consumption.
- Some 200 million vehicles would be added to the current global total if car ownership in China and India, the world's most populous countries, and Indonesia reached the current world average of 90 vehicles per 1,000 people, about twice the number of cars in the United States at present.
- The average citizen of the industrial world consumed nine times as much paper as the average person in the developing world, although paper use in developing countries was rising fast.

The document also pointed out that television ownership increased five times in the East Asia and Pacific region between 1985 and 1997. If TV programming in other parts of the region was the same as in the Philippines, that would mean that even greater consumption was also being peddled in these countries.

And yet, while consumption by higher income groups continued to grow, the paper reported that: "Almost 1.3 billion people live on less than US$1 day and close to 1 billion cannot meet their basic consumption requirements."

Thus, the paper stressed that poverty eradication remained the most pressing issue, especially in a region where 70 percent of the world's poor lived. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development underscored the need to integrate the issue of production and consumption patterns into sustainable development policies, including those pertaining to poverty reduction.

"Northern consumption patterns are without doubt unsustainable and will require available intellectual and technological skills to reorient the trends. In comparison, is the need in much of the South for increased access to crucial goods and services so that people can find a way out of poverty. However, the changes must occur in respect of ecological and social factors," the document said.

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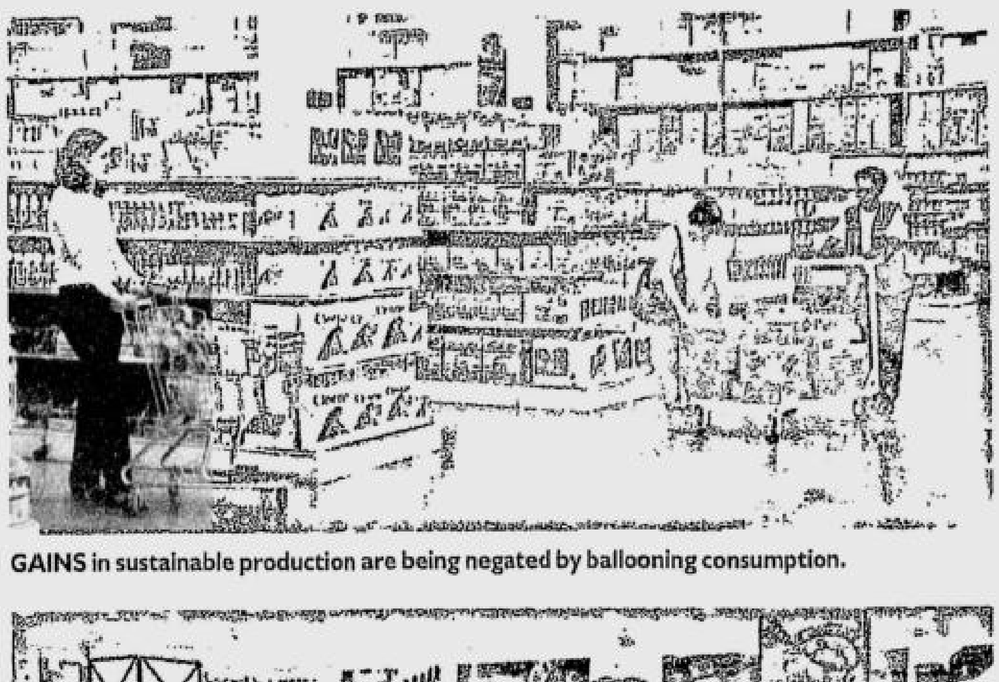
GLOBAL oil consumption, like paper use, has more than tripled since the early 1960s.

THE PAPERLESS society remains a distant dream despite widespread use of computers.



GAINS in sustainable production are being negated by ballooning consumption.